

THE TIMES



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MONDAY
30
EVERY
WEEK

STOP making a pantomime of Shakespeare

Benedict Nightingale page 16

YES YES YES

A night of triumph with VIAGRA page 15

Football 98-99



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Tax incentives to start businesses

Brown wants risk to be rewarded

By Philip Webster and Peter Riddell

A RADICAL package of tax measures to encourage people to take the risk of leaving safe jobs and starting new businesses is being prepared by Gordon Brown for his next Budget.

The Chancellor is expected to propose in his pre-budget report plans that would mean people who take the plunge into starting up new hi-tech companies, paying less tax than if they stayed where they were.

Mr Brown is drawing up further measures designed to help youngsters improve their skills from the moment they start working and to remove obstacles to them getting on as they climb the ladder of opportunity.

Performance-related pay will be encouraged across industry and, if the economic circumstances allow, the long-promised 10p starting rate of tax could be introduced.

Mr Brown is considering fundamental changes to tax and competition law that will mean special relief for companies that invest in innovation and research and development. There is expected to be tax relief to help companies train workers.

Mr Brown's determination to bridge Britain's productivity gap with its main competitors is set out in an interview for *The Times*. Many of the proposals have emerged from seminars with businessmen. "I want to reward risk-takers," he says.

In his interview, Mr Brown rejects charges after last week's reshuffle that the Government's welfare reform programme has stalled. He makes plain that the proposals put forward by Frank Field, the former Minister for Welfare Reform, for a compulsory second pension could not have been contemplated because they would have cost billions in the short-term.

"I am not going to become a taxing and spending Chancellor," he says.

During his interview the Chancellor stood back from directly criticising Mr Field.

When it was pointed out that Mr Field had cast him as the villain of the piece for blocking many of his proposals, the Chancellor said: "I am not going to say any more about that."

But Jack Cunningham, the new Cabinet "enforcer", rounded on the former minister yesterday for demanding the job of Social Security Secretary as his price for staying. "That's not the kind of pressure any Prime Minister is going to accept," he told Sky News.

Mr Brown promises a reform of the capital markets to break down barriers to enter-



Brown: "There is not enough enterprise"

prise. "We have to face up to the fact that we are not creating enough successful and growing businesses," he says. In a statement that former Labour Chancellors may not have made, he adds: "There is not enough enterprise in our country."

"I want to reward risk and help people become more motivated and more determined to succeed. I want to help more people work their way up right from starting in a job and taking responsibility in a job and to climbing the ladder of opportunity. I want to look at each rung of that ladder to see where there are disincentives to people moving ahead."

Mr Brown emphasises that

Labour is "pro-business and pro-opportunity." But he makes a clear distinction between rewarding the risk-takers in industry and the behaviour of the "fat cats" in the former public utilities.

Under plans announced earlier this week, utilities are being urged to link pay to service standards and regulatory of the utilities are to be advised to take account of the levels of customer service when setting price caps.

Mr Brown makes plain his irritation that the former public monopolies have often become private monopolies and have paid themselves more irrespective of whether they have won a stronger position in the market place.

He puts them in a completely different category from the people in private business who use their skills every day in a competitive environment to win business. "People should be rewarded for the risks they take," he says. "I want to reward the people who take decisions and make a success of what they are doing."

Measures designed to encourage risk takers will build on the changes to capital gains tax in the last Budget which allow people who put their own money into the businesses they run to pay only a 10p tax on gains compared with the general 40p rate.

Mr Brown brushed aside suggestions that the reshuffle had severely damaged his powerbase. He said that the changes "rightly" made by Tony Blair had put in place the ministers best able to drive forward the next stage of Labour's programme.

He was all smiles about the appointment of Peter Mandelson, with whom he has had a frosty relationship since the 1994 leadership election. Mr Mandelson would enjoy the challenge of being trade and industry secretary "and I will enjoy working with him."

Brown's new world, page 8
Leading article, page 19
William Rees-Mogg and Peter Riddell, page 18



On shore in Norfolk yesterday morning, the Queen and the Queen Mother sat side-by-side as they were driven to church at Sandringham

Working boat could be Duke's Cowes berth

By Deborah Colclutt

THE Duke of Edinburgh and the Princess Royal have, for the second year running, been forced to rely on the generosity of the billionaire oilman John Paul Getty II for their week-long stay at Cowes. The problem has arisen since the decommissioning of the Royal Yacht *Britannia*.

A formidable sight on the outer limits of Cowes harbour, Mr Getty's boat *Talitha G* is overshadowed in size only by an ugly and functional vessel, bedecked with cranes and machinery - the *Patricia*. And it is that working ship, belonging to Trinity House, the mariner-safety organisation of which Prince Philip is Master, which has been suggested as a

berth for the Royal Family. With a crew of 22, the 283ft ship has six state rooms, a dining room and salon and a large verandah deck.

In the past when *Britannia* was being serviced, the Royal Family used *Patricia's* identical predecessor, *Patricia I*.

Peter Nicholson, chairman of the Cowes combined clubs and Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron, said it was appalling that the Royal Family had to rely on hospitality. "Prince Philip spent Cowes week aboard the old *Patricia* in the past and, considering he is the Master of Trinity House, and the Master of accommodation on board, why shouldn't he use it?"

The Duke traditionally hosts a dinner for Trinity House staff on

Patricia at the beginning of Cowes week to thank mariners who pay boat dues, which fund the organisation. His deputy master, Rear-Admiral Patrick Rowe, who served for three years aboard the Royal Yacht, said *Patricia* could be made available. "Even the smallest royal families have yachts and yet the Royal Family of Great Britain, with our naval heritage, does not. It's a sad reflection."

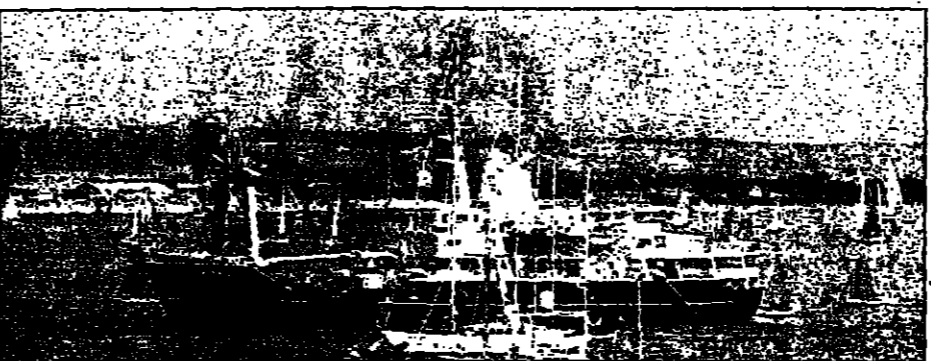
Patricia's imposing cabins are scarcely used since the elder brethren of Trinity House, whose annual duty it is to visit every lighthouse and inspect every buoy and beacon on coastal waters off England and Wales, now use a helicopter or car. The state rooms, containing important works of art, are described as comfortable and

the living quarters appropriate to entertain VIP guests.

However, luxury is not foremost in the minds of Prince Philip or his daughter, both of whom love the prestigious regatta for the sailing, and enjoy visiting friends in and around the harbour. Yesterday Prince Philip was taken by motorboat from *Hamble* to the *Talitha G*.

Officially the Royal Family has chartered the £15 million, 263ft motor yacht, equipped with the latest in satellite communications equipment and considered the most luxurious of her type, but it is well known that all their hosts gain is the status of accommodating royalty.

Cowes Week, page 29



Trinity House's working ship Patricia, moored among smaller vessels off Cowes

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| TV & RADIO | 22-23 |
| WEATHER | 22 |
| CROSSWORDS | 22-44 |
| LETTERS | 19 |
| OBITUARIES | 21 |
| W. REES-MOGG | 18 |
| ARTS | 16-17 |
| CHESS & BRIDGE | 32 |
| COURT & SOCIAL | 20 |
| SPORT | 23-25 |
| MIND & MATTER | 13 |
| FASHION | 14 |
| FEATURES | 15 |
| LAW REPORT | 37 |

Top senator urges Clinton to tell all

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A LEADING Republican senator yesterday offered President Clinton a rescue plan to prevent his possible impeachment.

Orrin Hatch, chairman of the Senate judiciary committee, said that if Mr Clinton confessed that he had lied in denying a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, and handled it correctly, it might be enough to persuade the public to show leniency.

Even if the President had lied to protect his wife and daughter from embarrassment, and if there were not "a lot of other problems", that could certainly mean "non-impeachment", Senator Hatch said.

The senator went on to speak of Mr Clinton "throwing himself on the American people" and urged him to "pour your heart out". If he did, he would find that Americans were a forgiving people.

Washington was yesterday engulfed in speculation that Mr Clinton was considering an apology and a full explanation of his friendship with Ms Lewinsky while she was a trainee at the White House.

But the White House denied that senior Clinton aides were already floating the reaction of Congress.

Leon Panetta, formerly Mr Clinton's Chief of Staff, recommended that the President should address the nation from the Oval Office after he gives evidence before the grand jury two weeks from today. "He should sit down and stare the American people in the eye. He has to be the loneliest guy in the country right now," Mr Panetta said.

George Stephanopoulos, another former close Clinton confidant, said in *Newsweek* that if the President had lied he should reveal everything and apologise. Otherwise, the rest of his term would be consumed by fallout from prosecutors and the risk that he would have little credibility with the public.

Mr Clinton returned to Washington yesterday after a fund-raising jaunt in which his mood throughout was described as upbeat.

Pour your heart out, page 10
Leading article, page 19

Pantini wins a troubled Tour

Marco Pantani, winner of the Tour of Italy in June, rose above the doping scandal and bickering to seal victory in the 85th Tour de France in Paris, ending the most bitter and troubled race in the history of professional cycling. Page 32

High street wine war

Two of the biggest high street wine chains, Thrasher and Victoria Wine, are set to merge, threatening an all-out price war with the big supermarket groups such as Tesco and Sainsbury. Page 4



"Let's pool our resources"

Ex-MI5 spy fights extradition bid

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS AND MICHAEL EVANS

THE Government is set for a legal battle to extradite David Shayler, the former MI5 officer who was arrested in Paris at the request of the Special Branch.

Mr Shayler's solicitor, John Wadham, said he would vigorously fight the extradition. He said the European convention on extradition, to which both Britain and France were signatories, generally prevents extradition in cases where it could be shown the alleged offence was political.

Mr Shayler, who has threatened to publish details of spying operations in Britain and abroad, spent last night in a French prison to await a hearing.

The Home Office has 40 days to serve papers for the return of Mr Shayler to Britain where it is planned to charge him under the Official Secrets Act with disclosing information about MI5. He was arrested on Saturday evening when he returned to his hotel off the Boulevard Saint Germain in Paris.

Richard Tomlinson, who formerly worked for MI6, was also held for questioning by

French police, but was released on Saturday night. Five plainclothes officers from the DST had seized him at gunpoint early on Friday afternoon at the Britannia Hotel near the Gare Saint Lazare where he was staying. The officers rugby-tackled Mr Tomlinson, forcing him to the ground. He was then taken to DST headquarters where he was questioned by an investigating magistrate. A spokesman for the French Justice Ministry said the British authorities had not objected to Mr Tomlinson's release.

Isabelle Chauvin, deputy public prosecutor at the Parquet de Paris, said yesterday that there was no time limit on the investigation to be carried out by her department, and that it was likely to take "a matter of months".

Speaking from Paris, Annie Machon, Mr Shayler's girlfriend, said: "French police are being very obstructive. I cannot get through to anyone who can tell me what has happened to him. I am upset and very angry."

Security fears, page 5

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Ministers attack Field for 'thinking the unworkable'

Nicholas Watt and Philip Webster on concerted effort against welfare reformer



Field: said that his messages were lost

A WEEK ago, Frank Field was so confident of his position as the Government's free thinker on welfare reform that he was plotting to take Harriet Harman's Cabinet seat when the Prime Minister at last wielded the axe.

as "paltry, an embarrassment and unpublishable". Jack Cunningham, the new Cabinet "enforcer", went on the record to attack Mr Field for demanding to be promoted to Social Security Secretary as his price for remaining in Government. Dr Cunningham told Sky TV: "That's not the kind of pressure any Prime Minister is going to accept."

to be possible" to promote Mr Field to the Cabinet. Mr Darling then echoed Downing Street's criticisms that Mr Field's theoretical thinking had failed to produce any results. He said: "There does come a time when you've got to move on from these general discussions to what is practically possible."

the welfare state. Mr Field, who Mr Blair had given the task of "think the unthinkable" in Government, said in his Commons resignation statement last week that his plans were thwarted by the Chancellor. Yesterday Mr Field accused Ms Harman of failing to pass on his plans for welfare reform to Downing Street. In an interview with the *Sunday People*, he said: "In my case, it was clearly very easy for the message to get lost on the way in Downing Street."

the Social Security Department and at the Treasury were "brimming" with ideas, but their ideas were blocked by their political masters. "The whole department simply didn't function for a long period of time," he said. "Nothing happened. In the end I ceased to even put projects forward because nothing ever happened. They'd be run into the sand, disappear, into a black hole."

failed. Iain Duncan Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, said: "The attacks by Ministers' ministers and the Prime Minister's Office on Frank Field at the heart of the Government's welfare reform programme. By claiming that Mr Field's ideas were unrealistic, the Government has admitted that no real welfare reform was taking place."

Mowlam condemns bomb attack on weekend shoppers

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Northern Ireland Secretary yesterday condemned the terrorists who carried out a "cowardly attack" on innocent shoppers caught in the bombing of a busy market town.

times in the market town. Republican terrorists had issued two warnings 20 minutes before the bomb went off on Newry Street, leaving police insufficient time to clear the street and nearby Bridge St — Banbridge's main shopping thoroughfare.

serious condition. Dr Mowlam, after visiting the scene on Saturday night, said: "This was an appalling outrage. The damage is extensive and it is a miracle no one was killed."

prepared in the Irish Republic by the dissidents and driven across the border to Banbridge, a mainly Protestant town about 25 miles from the frontier.

recent months, leading to growing concerns about their strength and capability. Police sources on both sides of the Irish border believe that the Continuity IRA and the Real IRA are sharing information, bomb-making techniques and equipment. It is believed the two groups now have access to large amounts of Semtex explosive, detonators and other bomb-making equipment.

Dissidents who threaten peace

BY AUDREY MAGEE

ONCE dismissed as a paltry group of yesterday's men, republican dissidents are quickly becoming a dangerous force. The Continuity IRA, "Real" IRA and INLA refuse to call a ceasefire or recognise the two called by the IRA since August 1994.

Their attacks were mostly confined to car bombs assembled in the Irish Republic, driven over the border and planted in the centre of Protestant towns, including one on September 16, 1997, which destroyed the centre of Markethill, Co Armagh, as the Ulster Unionist Party prepared to rejoin the multi-party talks.

500lb car bomb was defused in Banbridge, Co Down. Attempts by the Continuity IRA, which has less than 50 members, to wreak havoc were bolstered last November with the formation of the Real IRA. It has about 70 members, although its ranks are believed to be growing as more IRA members, many with bomb making expertise, switch allegiance.

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The scene in Banbridge the day after a car packed with 500lb of explosives exploded

Balcombe Street gang to be free within two years

BY OUR IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Balcombe Street gang will be out of prison within two years after the decision by the Irish Government to begin the early release of IRA prisoners.

The four-member gang, responsible for some of the worst IRA atrocities in Britain, are among the 27 prisoners left in the IRA wing of Portlaoise prison, a high security jail 50 miles west of Dublin.

The men will be granted early release following Friday's decision by the Irish Justice Minister to free six IRA prisoners. John O'Donoghue said he was discharging his commitment to early prisoner releases agreed under the Belfast Agreement.



Magee, left, shot PC Goodman dead at point-blank

ferred to Portlaoise prison earlier this year and controversially granted day release in May to attend a Sinn Fein conference, qualify for early release as they are members of the IRA, the only republican terrorist organisation deemed by the British and Irish governments to be adhering to a ceasefire.



the attempted murder of two police officers in Yorkshire and possession of firearms. O'Brien, one of the most high profile republican prisoners and not due for release until 2005, had been driving a car with accomplice and convicted IRA assassin Paul Magee when it was stopped by special constable Glen Goodman, near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.

PC's father condemns early release

BY STEWART TENDLER

THE father of a special constable murdered by the IRA yesterday bitterly condemned the early release of a member of the gang that killed him.

PC Goodman was shot in 1992 at a police checkpoint and yesterday his father Brian attacked the decision to free Michael O'Brien five years after he was sentenced to 18 years in prison.

Yesterday Mr Goodman, who lives near Tadcaster, said: "As far as I am concerned, although O'Brien didn't pull the trigger of the gun that killed my son, he well knew what was going on. In my eyes he's as guilty as Magee. I'm absolutely disgusted. It's a travesty of justice. "Everybody wants peace, but let's start from now. Crimes already committed need to be punished and murder should be paid for."

Police scorn pension overhaul

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE leaders yesterday unanimously rejected government plans to overhaul their pension system, accusing ministers of "shameful" proposals that would penalise widows and orphans.

pension would be reduced from two thirds of final salary to half. At present, retiring officers can commute up to a quarter of their pension but this amount would also be reduced.

Police leaders yesterday unanimously rejected government plans to overhaul their pension system, accusing ministers of "shameful" proposals that would penalise widows and orphans.

safety net for dedicated officers but the benefits for police widows, widowers and dependent children." Reform and better management of the sickness system would make considerable savings, he said.

E pilot to...
crippled

Palace to...
by sharing



Holidaymakers enjoy the sun and the sights at the Cowes regatta yesterday. Locals in the tranquil seaside town are less sure about the annual invasion, with many planning their holidays to get away

Cowes not all plain sailing for the locals

By Deborah Colclutt

THE occasional visitor notices the boats are bigger and the women's clothes racier, but when the crowd of yachters, larger than the population of the Isle of Wight, descends on this tranquil seaside town, for the locals Cowes is simply getting rowdier.

So out of control, in fact, that a number plan their holidays abroad to coincide with the onslaught while managing to cash in on the event by renting out their homes to sailing crews and media teams. "I couldn't bear to stay here," said one resident who let out her Victorian house to a six-man sailing crew for £1,600 a week. "I used to try to go to work and carry on life as normal but it is impossible — they make so much noise you don't get any sleep. Now we just go away and make money out of it."

Her home is 10 minutes from the marina where boats are moored and the crews gather after sailing, sunbath and windswept to eat, drink and tell tall tales of the day's contests. The figures of alcohol consumption seem to rise yearly: 228,000 pints of beer over eight days and a Pimms drunk every 30 seconds.

While hoteliers and restaurateurs marvel at the inflated prices people are prepared to pay, the police and local authorities groan under the strain of finding extra officers on the beat and clearing 93.25 tonnes of rubbish.

The world's largest sailing regatta, which is said to have started in the late 18th century with a race between fishing craft laden with contraband trying to outrun the Revenue's cutters, has attracted around 840 boats this year, down on the 1997 record of 907.

RAF pilot turns glider to save his crippled jet

By Warwick Mansell

AN RAF pilot landed safely after his single-engine jet cut out at 20,000ft. Flight Lieutenant Geoff Sheppard was forced to glide his Hawk jet for more than 40 miles, the latter stages in almost zero visibility, after its engine and navigation equipment cut out over Norway.

The 39-year-old airman and his rear seat pilot, Flt Lt Ian Brosch, managed to reach an airfield, where stricken plane came to rest just 50 yards from the end of the runway.

Flt Lt Sheppard's commanding officer has described the pilot as a "bally hero" for bringing the £6 million, 25-year-old plane down safely. Flt Lt Sheppard, who has only recently beaten cancer, explained how he was flying from RAF Leeming, North Yorkshire, to an airshow in Bardufoss, Norway, when the Hawk developed oil pressure problems at 40,000ft near Oslo.

He immediately began a descent towards a nearby airfield at Vigra. But at

20,000ft, the single engine cut out completely. He said: "When it died we lost all the electrics and the generator. We had lost all the instruments to help us navigate and the airfield we were heading for had no radar. In Norway you are never far from the mountains and we knew we had to go out over the sea where we could try to get under the cloud. We were just hoping to see a glimpse of the water so that we knew for certain we were over the ocean."

"Thankfully there was a gap in the cloud and I could make out the sea so I dived through it to a height of 800ft, below the cloud. But with the engine having failed we had lost our air conditioning and the canopy had misted over. It was very difficult to see through it. "It was touch and go whether we had built up enough speed and energy to reach the airfield but we got there. The landing was very difficult because it had been raining hard and we were in danger of

overshooting the runway and ending up in the sea. It was a great relief to find we were slowing and coming to a stop."

Flt Lt Sheppard has 10 years' experience training young pilots to fly the Hawk, which is the RAF's training vehicle and is used by the Red Arrows stunt team. He added: "At the time I just felt happy that we had done everything right and brought the plane home. It was the next morning when I looked back at all the things that could have happened that it seemed a bit more dramatic."

The father-of-three had only returned to flying last December after undergoing a bone marrow transplant to treat cancer of the lymph glands. He said: "Of his latest experience: 'I don't know about being a hero but it certainly proves the procedures and training carries you through.' But his commanding officer at 100 Squadron, Leeming, described the pilot as a "bally hero". Wing Commander Gordon Buckley said: "They would have been well within their rights to eject almost until the aircraft stopped. It was a piece of very skilful flying. This was a tremendous example of the Royal Air Force at its best."

David Learmount, operations and safety editor at Flight International magazine and himself a former RAF flying instructor, said in ideal conditions, the descent would have been relatively routine for a pilot of Flt Lt Sheppard's experience. But a low cloud base would have changed the situation completely.

He said: "From their earliest days, RAF pilots have been trained how to bring back to base or the nearest airfield in the event of an engine failure. It consists of a very practised routine where they adjust the way the aeroplane arrives over the airfield and then descend in what is known as a 'lazy spiral.' But pilots usually practised this from a height of 1,500-2,000ft. "In this case, the cloud base at 800ft would have made life very difficult. He would have had very little time to work in and would have needed some luck, great skill and composure."



A "bally hero": Flt Lt Sheppard back on the ground

All aboard the floating school

By Deborah Colclutt

WITH not a classroom or blackboard in sight for hundreds of miles, most teenagers would hope that living on a boat in the middle of the ocean might mean they could miss school lessons.

But no such luck for sisters Sophie and Suzy Edington as they embark on a 30,000-mile round-the-world voyage with their parents on a boat built in the back garden.

Careful preparations have been made to ensure the girls can continue their education without interruption via the Internet. They will even have a personal tutor back in England and "classmates" waiting for regular updates on their seafaring adventure.

The voyage is in aid of Sightsavers, the British charity which helps to combat blindness in Third-World countries. Stopping off on their way to Sydney, Australia, the Edingtons will travel 200-miles up and down the



Sophie, Peter, Suzy and Sally aboard the Loquax

Gambia river distributing spectacles and encouraging villagers to travel to eye centres for tests and to have cataract operations if necessary.

The girls' parents, Peter, 47, a former computer programmer, and Sally, 43, a physiotherapist, made the difficult decision to take their daughters out of school at a crucial time in their education. But they believe they have found an alternative method of

teaching them which will not hamper their success.

Cranford Community School in Hounslow, west London, provides "remote" teaching using the Internet, satellite telephones and a tutor, whose only job it is to set and mark course work for his pupils. Peter has modified one of the two double cabins on board the family's boat, Loquax, to accommodate chairs, desks, laptop computers and shelves for their

books. Sophie, 13, and Suzy, 16, will be expected to study every day regardless of where in the world they happen to be.

At Easter next year her classmates will be building a web site as part of their Information Technology studies. Sophie will also be expected to create one of her own and send news and images back to the school of her own experiences.

The family are taking a BBC camera with them on their journey and for part of her French coursework Sophie plans to film a French-speaking community they hope to meet during the voyage.

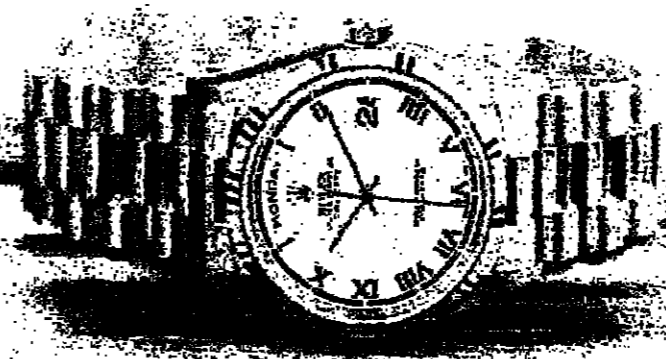
Life on the ocean waves will also be no excuse for not sitting their exams; she will do them via e-mail rather than on more traditional exam papers and the family plan to reach Australia in plenty of time for Suzy to sit her A-Levels in the autumn next year.

Capturing the imagination of the world was only the beginning.



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OYSTER PERPETUAL DAY-DATE



ROLEX of Geneva

Brothers killed in club

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

POLICE were yesterday waiting for a mother to identify the bodies of her two sons murdered in a late night row in an East London drinking club.

The men died at Churchill's snooker club in Walthamstow after a row erupted among the 30 drinkers left in the club early on Saturday morning. Detectives think one man may have been killed as he went to the aid of his brother in a row and both were left badly stabbed.

Last night police said they were hunting for a man of Asian appearance. One of the dead men is aged 20, the other 31. Both lived near by with their widowed mother, who is in her 60s who also has an older son.

Both the dead men were unemployed and had visited the club before. The suspect had also drunk there in the past. Police are appealing for witnesses.

Palace to cut costs by sharing plane

By Nicholas Watt, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR is to share a new aircraft with the Queen which will replace the ageing RAF VC10 which has flown every Prime Minister around the world since the late 1960s.

Buckingham Palace suggested the idea of a shared plane to Downing Street as a way of keeping down the exorbitant costs of flying the Queen and the Prime Minister on official visits.

A Downing Street spokesman yesterday denied reports that Mr Blair had vetoed an idea from the Palace of acquiring a 19-seater Gulfstream long haul executive jet in favour of a large Airbus A340.

The spokesman said: "A number of proposals have been put forward by Buckingham Palace but no response has yet been made. The matter is still being considered."

Buckingham Palace said that discussions were at an early stage. "With air travel the best value for money is if

there is some shared use."

The replacement of the RAF VC10 will come as a relief to officials and journalists who have had to endure the cramped, noisy and hot conditions on board the plane which first came into service in 1967. Margaret Thatcher always insisted on using the plane, but John Major loathed the VC10, particularly its basic air-conditioning system, and frequently chartered other planes for his official overseas trips, including Concorde and a Boeing 747. Mr Blair flew to Washington earlier this year on Concorde.

The RAF VC10 used by the Prime Minister is one of 13 maintained by the RAF, but the only one equipped for VIPs. It is not part of the Queen's Flight, but has been used by the Queen and was used by the Princess Royal earlier this year.

Versatile Blair, page 9

kable

TO... father... academics... release

on overhaul

صحة من الإصل

Museum buys café society wall of fame

By Dalya Alberge
arts correspondent
WALL panels from a high-society restaurant bearing the autographs of more than a thousand celebrities, including the composers Puccini, Tchaikovsky and Gershwin, have been acquired by the Museum of London.

Actors, composers, singers and writers left their mark on the walls of Pagan's Italian-Swiss restaurant in Great Portland Street, London, from 1874 until it was bombed in 1940. Some just autographed a panel; others added drawings and even musical notation.

The museum has bought five of the panels from the family of the original owners and is borrowing a further seven for an exhibition that will reunite them for the first time in a re-creation of the restaurant.

Simon Thurley, the museum's director, said: "The panels evoke the romance and richness of life in the capital in this period, including the *fin de siècle*. It is again the *fin de siècle*, so it's topical."

The great tenor Enrico Caruso scribbled several self-portraits, including one of himself as Don José in *Carmen*. Tchaikovsky jotted



Pagan's was the haunt of royalty and international names from the arts from 1874 until it was bombed in 1940

down a few bars from his Fourth Symphony just days after its British premiere, and Gershwin left behind a musical quote from *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Others who left proof of their visit were the composer Richard Strauss; the actress

Sarah Bernhardt; Maurice Chevalier, the Parisian boulevardier and star of films such as *Gigi*; the writer H.G. Wells; and the conductor Toscanini.

Dr Thurley said that although the Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward

VII, was a regular visitor to the restaurant with his mistress, Lillie Langtry, "they never left their signatures together at Pagan's". The Prince once signed a piece of paper that was later confiscated by a royal aide and Langtry's signature appeared

on a panel which is now lost.

Pagan's was among numerous Italian-Swiss restaurants which grew up around London from the 1840s. They were run by immigrant families from Ticino, in southern Switzerland. Some, such as

the lavish Monaco's in Piccadilly, were elegant and grand with suites of dining-rooms and orchestras to entertain diners; others were modest coffee-shops.

"They soon established themselves as a feature of London social life and revolutionised the eating habits of middle-class Londoners," Dr Thurley said.

Karen Fielder, assistant curator in the museum's department of later London history, said that the owners of Pagan's had failed to get planning permission to replace it after the bombing.

The room that bore the signed panels was reserved for the exclusive use of celebrities. It was little larger than 10ft square, and Pagan's owner had the power to say whether someone was sufficiently famous to dine there. People knew they had arrived when they were allowed in and they made a point of leaving their signatures. "It was the thing to do," she said.

The panels are made of linoleum, frequently used during the late 19th century to cover walls, and will be displayed at the *Walls of Fame* exhibition at the Museum of London from August 21 until October 4.



Caruso, Tchaikovsky and Nijinsky all left their mark

Price war as drink shops aim to mix it

By JON ASHWORTH

TWO of the UK's biggest high street wine chains, Thresher and Victoria Wine, are set to merge, threatening an all-out price war with big supermarket groups including Tesco and Sainsbury's.

The merger would involve 3,000 branches and annual sales of more than £1.6 billion. Wine buffs would reap the benefits in a host of discounts and special offers, although the deal must first pass the scrutiny of competition regulators.

Thresher, owned by Whitbread, trades under different names according to geographic area, with Wine Rack reserved for upmarket climates. It also includes Bottoms Up, Drinks Cabin and Hutton's convenience stores. Victoria Wine, owned by Allied Domecq, includes Cellars, Haddows and Firkin off-licences.

Tesco is Britain's biggest wine retailer, followed closely by Sainsbury's, but Thresher-Victoria Wine would easily slip into pole position. Thresher has 7.9 per cent of the UK market, and Victoria Wine has 7.1 per cent, according to Verdict, the retail analyst. Tesco has 13.9 per cent, Sainsbury's 12 per cent and Safeway 9.1 per cent.

Price-cutting could follow, particularly at the supermarkets, which have the advantage of higher volumes and a captive audience. Consumers stock up with alcohol as part of the weekly shop. Richard Hyman, chairman of Verdict, said: "The supermarkets are responsible to an overwhelming degree for the variety and size of the wine market in Britain. They have taken the mystique out of buying wine."

The specialist off-licence sector has a long history of consolidation - lots and lots of mergers as food retailers become better and better at selling alcohol. We tend to keep stocks of alcohol as we keep stocks of food. The specialist off-licences have been

struggling for the last ten to 15 years to match the scale of the food retailers. They're having to run faster to stand still with every passing year."

Britons spend more than £4.5 billion on wine a year, making us Europe's biggest wine-consuming nation after France. Consumption has risen 500 per cent since the early 1960s. French, German and Italian wines are most popular; although there is a growing interest in "New World" wines from Chile, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and America.

While sales of wine elsewhere in Europe are falling, consumers in Britain are drinking more wine and pay higher prices. However, margins in the wine business are thin, making it difficult for smaller retailers to turn a profit. Peter Dominic (now part of Thresher) and Westminster Wine are among off-licence names to have disappeared from the High Street in recent years.

Victoria Wine/Thresher's only big non-supermarket competitor will be Parisa, owner of Cellar 5, which was formed two years ago as a buy-out of Greenall's off-licence chain. Parisa has been tipped as possible buyer of either Victoria Wine or Thresher. Parisa has shown the way forward for the industry by launching Booze Buster, a discount chain designed to undercut Sainsbury's and Tesco.

The merged business would control more than a third of Britain's High Street off-licences, making a monopolies reference likely. The companies would seek to use their increased buying power to negotiate special deals from brewers and wine growers. Whitbread and Allied Domecq are understood to have been discussing a deal for several months. A formal announcement to the Stock Exchange confirming the talks is expected today.

A-level pupils may get wrong results

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

HUNDREDS of schools are to doublecheck their pupils' A-level results after a persistent fault in the computer system of a leading examination board has raised fears that the wrong results may be sent to thousands of candidates.

Schools are joining forces with teaching unions and government curriculum advisers to try to rectify the error and ensure pupils receive the correct marks when the results are issued on August 20.

Signs of an impending crisis at the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate appeared in May, when many schools did not receive confir-

mation that candidates would sit exams they had applied for. Papers did not appear on examination days and the computer failed to send schools the packages in which A-level papers are forwarded to the board's markers. Schools are now worried that the computer malfunction will affect the processing of results.

Dr Ron McLone, the Chief Executive of the Oxford and Cambridge Examination and Assessment Council, insisted he was completely confident pupils would receive the correct results despite the problems experienced with the new system.

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Palace visitors to see Queen in a new light

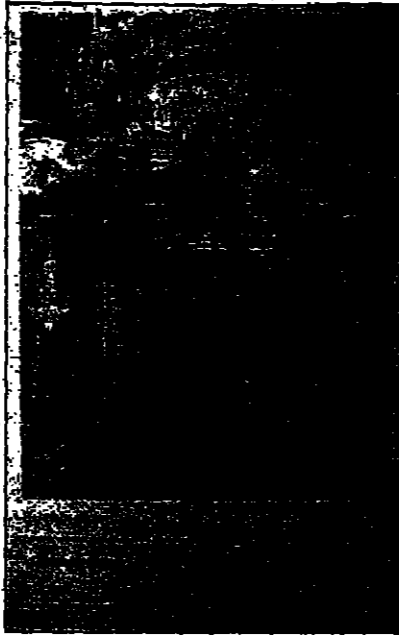
By Alan Hamilton

VISITORS may not be able to see the Queen in Buckingham Palace when it opens its doors to the public on Thursday, but they will be able to buy a video which shows her at work there.

The gift shop has updated a £10 video showing 18 minutes of footage of the Queen holding an investiture in the Picture Gallery, entertaining European summit leaders in the State dining room and hosting a reception for young achievers in the ballroom. The move is an attempt to show that the Palace is not Versailles, but the headquarters of a working monarchy.

It comes as the Palace allows newspaper and television cameramen greater access to the Queen conducting official functions. The artist Alison Pullen was allowed access to the state apartments to paint the Throne Room for a London Underground poster, which will appear at Tube stations later this week.

This year is the sixth in succession that the Palace has opened to the public, and the gift shop is expected to be the star attraction, as in previous years. There are several additions to the range that stretches from a £2 chocolate bar to a limited edition Pieta Dura carriage clock for £495. Soaps and toiletries are included for the first time, from £6 to £7.50; and there is a new bone-china teacup and saucer set at £65, bearing designs from a



The poster will appear this week

17th-century Boulle cabinet in the Green Drawing Room.

The shop is also helping family causes; another video on sale is Prince Edward's documentary for ITV on the restoration of Windsor Castle, which the profits from

the Palace opening have largely funded. Seekers after the unusual may care to part with £395 for a sterling silver visiting card case, based on an original by Nathaniel Mills which belonged to Queen Mary.

Admissions and profits fell last year, a result of the Palace being closed for a week after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Admissions were down to 313,000 compared with 397,000 the previous year, and souvenir shop sales fell from just over £1 million to £666,000.

But the Palace expects receipts to be back to normal this season, not least because of a 50p increase in the admission price to £9.50. Numbers admitted, however, are being reduced from 7,000 a day to about 5,500 a day. "We found that, in the very hot summers we have had in recent years, the state apartments could get uncomfortably stuffy and airless with so many people in them at one time," a spokesman said.

"It's beginning to look as though reducing the numbers because of the weather may be unnecessary this year, but you never know."

The Palace will be open from August 6 to October 4. Staff will decide in 2000 whether it should close for essential building maintenance. Now that the restoration of Windsor Castle is complete, profits will go to help to maintain and conserve the Royal Collection of paintings, drawings and photographs, the largest assembly of art in the world.

Irvine 'window-dressing' attacked

By Dalva Alberg
Arts Correspondent

THE opening of the Lord Chancellor's expensively refurbished Westminster apartments to the public has been exposed as mere window-dressing, critics claimed after it emerged that would-be visitors will not be able to see them until late next year.

The news has added fuel to the fire of those who criticised Lord Irvine of Lairg for spending £650,000 of public money

on renovations and for borrowing many works of art from public museums and galleries. The Government's defence was that the historic apartments would be accessible to the public.

But the booking office has now confirmed that it will not be possible to see them until "the latter part" of 1999 at the earliest. "We have been fully booked since May", an employee said, noting that she had had one cancellation for September. The apartments,

which are free to visitors, are open two mornings a week.

Duncan Macmillan, of the Talbot Rice Gallery in Edinburgh, had said Lord Irvine's selection of so many works from the National Galleries of Scotland was high-handed. Hearing the latest news, he said: "Surprise, surprise", opening the apartments had been "no more than window-dressing from the start".

The art world had generally felt that the furore over his borrowing the paintings was

unfortunate because works were at last to see the light of day. But hearing of the difficulties of visiting them, one museum source said: "You do wonder who will get a chance to see these objects."

A government spokesman said that some 440 people had visited the apartments since they opened in May, excluding those attending receptions. Twelve extra tours would be arranged during Parliament's summer recess, but numbers had to be limited to 20 a tour.



Alison Pullen was allowed to paint the Throne Room for a London Underground poster

Birthday starts early for Queen Mother

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who will be 98 tomorrow, went on a 20-minute walkabout outside Sandringham church yesterday to collect flowers, presents and cards.

Her golf buggy was on hand to take her round the crowd but when the Queen suggested she ride in it, the Queen Mother said: "No, I'm going to walk."

A crowd of 400 gathered in the rain to see the Queen and Queen Mother when they attended morning service. Forty children queued to present bouquets to the Queen Mother but two-year-old Zachary McCarthy-Fox, from Worthing, refused to hand over his flowers and gaily waved her goodbye with them still in his hands.

PC Michael Pollard, 54, was presented to the Queen Mother as this was his last day at Sandringham after 18 years' service. "It was an honour after so many years to actually meet her," he said.

The Queen Mother will celebrate her birthday tomorrow at a lunch with Prince William, Prince Harry, the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and other relatives. She is expected to greet well-wishers outside Clarence House and the Band of the Welsh Guards will play *Happy Birthday*.

Afterwards she is expected to travel to Balmoral for the Royal Family's traditional summer holiday. The journey will be by air because of the decommissioning of Britannia.

Fears that led to rogue MI5 officer's arrest

GOVERNMENT fears that highly damaging secret material was about to be disclosed by a former MI5 agent and an ex-MI6 officer may have prompted their arrest by French secret police.

According to *The Sunday Times*, David Shayler was about to make further revelations concerning Libya. Newspapers and broadcasting organisations are bound by a High Court injunction that prohibits publication of any material originating from Mr Shayler that is not already in the public domain.

Last week, in the third edition of its Security Service booklet, MI5 denied that it was ever involved in assassination plots. Before making this statement, archivists at MI5 searched all records to make sure there was no evidence of any operation that resulted in an unlawful killing. No such evidence was found, according to security sources.

There was no official comment yesterday on the *Sunday Times* article, but previous allegations made by Mr Shayler have been described as mistaken or misinterpreted.

Government, police and security sources insisted that the timing of Mr Shayler's arrest on Saturday evening was a coincidence and that the action was taken because of the decision by the Attorney-General, John Morris, to prosecute him under the Official Secrets Act. Mr Morris decided it was "in the public interest" to prosecute Mr Shayler after a Special Branch investigation.

There was, however, a flurry of legal exchanges between government lawyers and newspapers over the weekend when it became clear that further revelations were about to be made. Mr Shayler had

Michael Evans and Stewart Tandler on background to hotel swoop by secret police

gone to Paris from his farmhouse in the French countryside to be interviewed on BBC's *Breakfast With Frost*. He was arrested in the foyer of his hotel and taken to the Ministry of Interior on the basis of a warrant from a French judge.

Staff at the Golden Tulip Hotel, on Rue Saint Benoît, said that Mr Shayler appeared startled and then angry as the five plain-clothes officers from the DST surrounded him, then handcuffed him before leading him away. Annie Machon, Mr Shayler's girlfriend, remained in the hotel until 2am when she checked out in the company of a reporter from a Sunday tabloid. Hotel staff said that she seemed nervous and left no forwarding address.

Her boyfriend was taken to DST headquarters where he was held for several hours before being transferred to the Palais de Justice. Yesterday afternoon he appeared before a magistrate for the confirmation of identity and an official notification of his arrest in response to the British extradition request. He is now being held in the capital's La Santé prison where he is expected to stay until his hearing, it was suggested yesterday that Rich-

ard Tomlinson, the ex-MI6 officer, had gone to Paris to meet with Mr Shayler and Miss Machon, also a former MI5 officer, to collaborate on future revelations about their former employers.

However, at his hotel in Paris last night, Tomlinson denied that he had plans to reveal more details of his time as an intelligence officer. Tomlinson served nine months in prison after threatening to disclose secrets and was released on licence in April. He was bound by his licence conditions — which restricted his leaving the UK — until July 31.

Yesterday John Wadham, his solicitor, who is director of the civil rights group Liberty, claimed that the French police were angry with Special Branch which had asked them to arrest Tomlinson. "They thought Richard Tomlinson was some sort of terrorist and burst into his room with guns, only to discover they were detaining someone who was accused of breaching his licence conditions."

No further action is to be taken against Tomlinson, who was released by French police when it became clear that he had "done nothing wrong", Mr Wadham said. Tomlinson, who has dual British/New Zealand citizenship, plans to settle in New Zealand. His parents live in Cumbria.

The action against Mr Shayler was taken after several weeks of negotiations between Mr Wadham and government lawyers. Mr Shayler had asked to be granted immunity from prosecution if he returned to Britain. He said he was prepared to co-operate with the authorities. He also pledged to return the expenses he had received from *The Mail on Sunday* for living in exile in France.

However, the government lawyers showed little interest in a deal. They demanded that Mr Shayler reveal all the information that he had given to journalists since leaving the country.

Mr Wadham said that his client was unwilling to tell the police anything that might lead to journalists also being prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act.

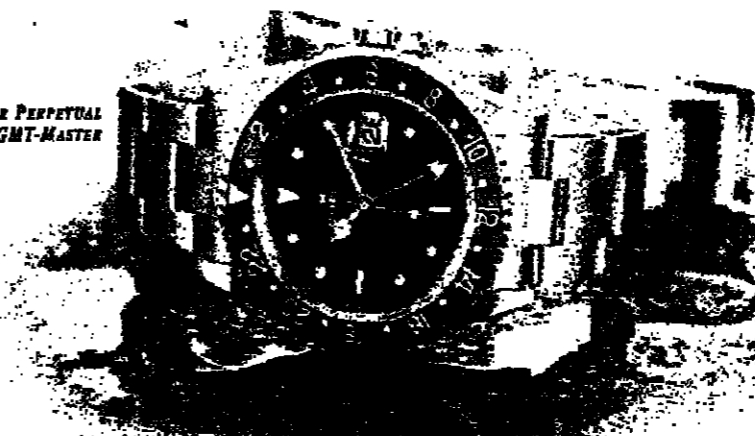
Claims in *The Mail on Sunday* yesterday that Mr Shayler's revelations about MI5 had led to the Government launching a review of all the intelligence services was dismissed as "nonsense".

Once the applause had died down, the real competition could begin.



PERPETUAL SPIRIT. Rolex has shared every second of Jackie Stewart's life for the last thirty years. After nine winning seasons in World Championship Formula One competition, the last thing Jackie Stewart wanted to do was slow down. Long a successful businessman, he is an automotive consultant on engineering future products. And in 1996 he founded a new Formula One Racing Team.

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Court of Appeal work to be devolved to regions

By Frances Gibb Legal Correspondent

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, is to devolve work from the Court of Appeal in London to be heard in the regions.

He also intends to expand his title as Lord Chief Justice of England to include Wales. It was "insulting" to the Welsh, he said, "that they should play no part in the title of the Lord Chief Justice".

"The office has always been Lord Chief Justice of England but I would like to give it a Welsh dimension."

No Court of Appeal work is handled in Wales, Lord Bingham said he wanted to see if some criminal appeals and judicial review cases could be heard there. It is understood the Lord Chancellor fully supports the change.

Lord Bingham said there were administrative problems in setting up centres to deal with judicial review cases in regions around the country and there was a limited corps of judges expert in this work.

He said that he favoured devolution of some court work such as judicial review cases and criminal appeals to regional centres, where they could be heard by judges rotating out from London.

Older Oxford colleges beat newcomers in 'supertable'

The Times has devised a fairer way of comparing examination results, reports Victoria Fletcher

OXFORD University's oldest colleges consistently achieve the best results while newer colleges, especially former all-female colleges, lag significantly behind, according to a league table which for the first time has mapped performance over five years in addition to annually.

The Norrington "supertable", compiled exclusively by The Times, shows that Merton's steady flow of excellent results in finals puts it into poll position, just ahead of St John's and Jesus. Meanwhile, Somerville, which was all-female until 1994 and has produced such powerful figures as Lady Thatcher and Indira Gandhi, the assassinated Indian Prime Minister, sits unambiguously at the bottom.

Balliol, founded in 1263, proved its enduring quality this year by bouncing back to 5th position in the Norrington Table after plummeting to 19th position last year. The temporary hiccup, which was dismissed by the college as "fluctuations", is overlooked by the supertable which places it 5th overall.

The Norrington Table has annually ranked colleges according to their finals results since it was conceived by Sir Arthur Norrington, a former President of Trinity College, in a letter to The Times in 1962. Escalating controversy over a college "league table", prompted the University, in 1992, to stop publishing college names next to students' results. However, through the work of a resourceful student, the table continued to be produced.

This year, Oxford admitted defeat in its attempts to thwart the table and once again is publishing student names, results and colleges together. A spokeswoman for Oxford said they had realised the Norrington Table would appear despite efforts to suppress it. "The information would appear whatever moves we made. The reason it is so controversial is that sharp swings in a college's results can occur from year to year.

its position will dip, but this does not reflect the overall performance of that college." Principals of many colleges have also criticised the importance placed on a single year's results as being unrepresentative. However, most of the University elite admit to enjoying the rivalry the table can ignite at Oxford.

Sir Peter North, Principal of Jesus College which came top of this year's table, was cautious about the success of his students. "I am pleased, but I do not think the table indicates accurately the performance of a college. Only over five years can a college be truly judged."



Sir Peter North: pleased with his college's success

he said. Therefore this year, the supertable offers a balanced overview of the best and worst academic performers. Three of the oldest colleges, Merton, University and Balliol, are in the top five, while colleges founded in the 19th century, with the exception of Keble, are predominantly towards the bottom of the list.

Surprisingly, one of the most highly regarded of the colleges, New College, is half way down the supertable. David Parteyman, the college bursar, said he was disappointed, but said the reputation of the college rested on its all-round

achievements. "We would not strive to be top at whatever cost and we do not want to distort the type of people we accept into the college. But we should be in the upper third of the list and there is room for improvement. How we improve is another question."

Corpus Christi, which dropped 18 places in this year's Norrington Table, appears also to be a victim of fluctuation, as overall it ranks 8th. Balliol admitted that head was taken of their slip in the league table last year. Andrew Graham, the acting master of Balliol said: "We were conscious of not doing too well last year and tutors are upset when this is reflected in a published table. Therefore I asked every finalist to try one higher, and I think this year it paid off."

Mr Graham added that the tension caused by either a yearly Norrington Table or a supertable was no bad thing. "A degree of competition doesn't hurt anyone. I don't know how many A-level pupils look at these when deciding on a college, but we already want good academic students and this table will only encourage that."

Robert Gildea, the Senior Tutor of Merton, put the success of the best college down to its small size and ethos of scholarship. "I am pleased we have topped the table. We have put a lot of time into pastoral care at Merton. Academics are often torn between research and teaching, but Merton provides a lot of time for good tutorial supervision. We have fewer cultural problems than other colleges, are smaller, happier and well-integrated," he said.

This year, a record 20.75 per cent of all Oxford finalists achieved first-class degrees, a five per cent increase on last year. The lower academic performance of the former all-female colleges was matched by a split in the class of degrees achieved by the sexes. While 24.3 per cent of men gained a first, only 15.5 per cent of women achieved the top class.

THE NORRINGTON SUPER TABLE 1994-98. Table with columns: College, Total Candidates, Candidates, Passes, Max points. Lists colleges from Merton to Somerville.

THE 1998 NORRINGTON TABLE. Table with columns: Position, College, Degrees, Total, % of, Students, Max points. Lists colleges from Jesus to Harris Manchester.

Police are urged to stop using CS spray on mentally ill

By Alexandra Freen Social Affairs Correspondent

HEALTH professionals yesterday urged the police to stop using CS spray to subdue psychiatric patients after research showed that it was a widespread occurrence.

Researchers at the Bethlem and Maudsley NHS Trust, Kent, were "appalled" to discover that more than one third of NHS mental health trusts had reported treating mentally ill people who had been brought in by police after the spray had been used. Fraser Bell, a senior project nurse at the trust, was particularly concerned to learn of 12 incidents when the spray had been used to quell disruptive patients on hospital premises. He said that CS spray "should not be used on mentally ill people at all - they are not criminals just because they are ill".

CS spray incapacitates the victim, causing intense pain, especially around the eyes. It causes blistering and can affect breathing.

The Police Complaints Authority's latest annual report claimed that some officers were using it "too readily".

Mr Bell's research, to be published this week in the professional journal, Mental Health Care, was prompted by a growth in cases at the emergency department of the Bethlem Royal Hospital & Maudsley Hospital. He said: "At the moment CS spray is being used by some police as a short cut. Rather than go through a long, involved process of negotiating and calming someone down, they just reach for the spray, subdue them, and nick them."

The use of the spray on psychiatric patients had profound physical and psychological effects, he said. Patients had to wait about four hours for the effects to wear off before nurses could touch them without being contaminated. "CS spray is ruining the patient-nurse relationship, not least because the patients see the nurses as complicit in its use," he said.

Mr Bell urged closer co-operation between mental health trusts and individual police authorities on use of the spray.

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of the mental health charity Sane, said: "It is abhorrent to punish mentally ill people in this way. It shows that the system of community care is near breaking point."

The Association of Chief Police Officers said the spray was used in self-defence by trained officers. It was "absurd and extremely dangerous" to suggest it should not be used against the mentally ill.

NEWS IN BRIEF

100ft cliff plunge kills climber

A climber died after plunging 100ft into the sea from cliffs. David Pearce, 33, from Broom's Barn, near Altrincham, Cheshire, fell while scaling Elen Tower on South Stack, off Anglesey, with two other climbers.

Mr Pearce was rescued by an RAF helicopter and taken to Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor, where he died later from his injuries.

Police said that Mr Pearce's grown-up son was at the scene of the accident but was not believed to have been climbing with his father.

Open all hours

A report by the Future Foundation predicts that after-hours shopping will be worth £40 billion a year by 2010. Standard opening times for more than half of shops will be from 10pm to 11pm and lucrative business opportunities lie ahead for companies prepared to adapt.

Baby damages

The parents of an unborn child which died in the womb after a gas fire was wrongly fitted in their home have been paid £20,000 by British Gas Services. Helen Rathor, of Bolton, fell ill after the fire, which is believed to have caused carbon-monoxide poisoning, was installed.

Bee alert

Beekeepers were urged to search the debris at the bottom of hives for signs of parasitic varroa mites, which weaken the insect's natural defences. The British Beekeepers Association, launching National Varroa Week, said that the problem was spreading north, wiping out honey-bee colonies.

£20 sanwich

Ray Bennett, 50, a mobile-phone executive from Houghton, was given a £20 penalty ticket by a police patrolman for not being in proper control of his car, after he was spotted eating a sandwich while in slow-moving traffic at Newmarket, Suffolk.

Diphtheria vaccine recall

GPs have been asked to return 40,000 doses of diphtheria vaccine to the Swiss manufacturer after concerns that the batch is past its use-by date (Alexandra Freen writes). The Department of Health said that although the Swiss authorities gave the drug a four-year shelf-life, the accepted maximum in Britain was

three years. As the batch was now three years old, British officials felt it was advisable to recall remaining doses.

A spokeswoman described the recall as a "precautionary measure" and said anyone vaccinated from the batch would be protected from the disease. Diphtheria is a risk in parts of Asia and Africa.

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A sunless summer? It's the weather's fault

Nigel Hawkes
on why experts dismiss fears of climate change and refuse to blame El Nino

AS CLOUDS scud across the sky, Britons want more than a sight of the Sun. They want explanations.

Why has northern Europe endured a summer of gloom, while Spain, Greece, and Italy broil? Is there a link between record floods in China and New Zealand, and an intense heatwave and drought in the southern United States? Surely the climatologists and weather forecasters, with their banks of supercomputers, can come up with something better than a shrug of the shoulders?

July in England and Wales was exceptional in only one way — the lack of sunshine. Figures from the Meteorological Office show that it averaged 4.91 hours a day, compared with the long-term average of 5.96. Temperatures were down, but not much — 15.7C (60.2F) against an average of 16.1C (61F).

Rainfall, Scotland excluded, was actually lower than average, at 52.8mm compared with 62mm. In Scotland, however, the heavens opened to give the fourth wettest July on record. In global terms, these figures are the small change of meteorology, with nothing in any way remarkable about them. Their explanation does not lie in global warming, El Nino, or even La Nina, the much-touted changes in the Pacific which affect the countries around its rim.

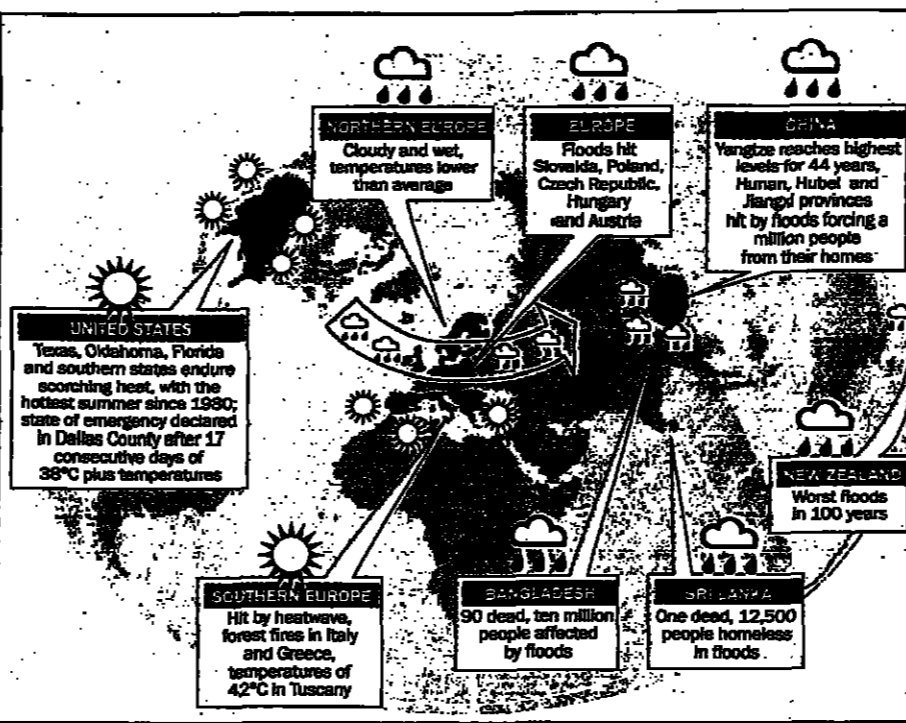
In other words, the experts says, our sunless summer is not a matter of climate. It's just the weather.

The same applies to the exceptional heat of southern Europe, and for much the same reason, the lack of a high pressure area north of the Azores. Without that "blocking high", weather in Britain and the rest of northern Europe is determined by strong westerlies crossing the Atlantic, carrying a series of depressions with them. Hence the scudding clouds.

The corollary of low pressures to the north is usually high pressures further south,



From blazing Florida to the flooded Yangtze, the world has suffered a year of extremes of weather. But in Europe, it is normal for the Mediterranean nations to swelter while Britain remains in shadow



which has been the case this summer. Poor summers in Britain are often, therefore, extremely hot summers further south. Examples are 1993, 1988 and 1974; this year seems certain to be added to the list.

Met Office forecasters say we cannot blame El Nino, the sudden rise in sea surface temperatures in the Pacific which occurred in March 1997. "No direct link has been established between El Nino and weather in Britain," a spokesman says firmly.

El Nino probably can be blamed for the intense heat in Texas and the southern states which set new records during July. Although the current El Nino was declared dead in the late spring, the unusual warmth of tropical waters has lingered in the eastern Pacific, creating a summer drought in the southwest US.

Although the US National Weather Service expects the warm water to go in the next two to five weeks, Texas may not be out of trouble. While El Nino is characterised by higher than average sea-surface temperature, it will be followed by its opposite, La Nina, when sea temperatures fall below normal.

Strong signs of this were detected along a 3,000-mile sector of the Equator between early May and early June, when sea temperatures fell four times quicker than they did at the time of the last La Nina in 1988-89. The International Research Institute for Climate Prediction in La Jolla,

California, expects sea-surface temperatures off the West Coast to be "moderately to substantially below normal" by this autumn.

This could prolong the Texas drought, since cooler waters normally bring winter warmth and dryness along with them. "If we don't get more normal precipitation in the late summer and early fall, we're looking at a large drought," Anthony Barnston of the US Weather Service says.

America could also be due for an unusually violent hurricane season. Generally, El Nino years bring fewer hurricanes, La Nina years more. This is because weak winds in the tropical Atlantic allow hurricanes to form without their tops being blown off, as happens in El Nino years.

Two recent La Nina years, 1988-89 and 1995-96, were among the most active periods for hurricanes. The chances of two or more hurricanes hitting America during an El Nino year is about 28 per cent, James O'Brien of Florida State University says, but during a La Nina year it is 66 per cent.

El Nino has been blamed for the floods in China, though local experts are more inclined to blame local, man-made changes such as deforestation and the neglect of flood-control measures. There have been huge amounts of rain, but the risk of floods, the local press asserts, is more the result of corrupt officials who

misappropriated flood-control funds.

Those who profess to see the hand of man in everything that goes wrong in the world, led by US Vice-President Al Gore, assert that the root cause of the present disasters is global warming. Record-setting rains in the Midwest, droughts in Florida, and soaring temperatures in Texas are consistent, Gore says, with predictions that global warming will bring more extreme weather events.

Although each single event cannot be attributed to global warming, he said last month, "what we've seen has long since left the boundaries of the normal and the expected". Temperature records show that eight out of the past ten years have been the hottest on record, at least as measured from the ground — satellite-based temperatures fail to

confirm the trend. The case is unprovable, one way or the other. Climate models are far too unsophisticated to predict the exact location of extreme weather events. It is all they can do to produce a plausible prediction of average temperatures.

A more extreme view is that the intensity of the El Nino event is itself the result of global warming. But the Australian climatologist Rob Allan, who spent eight months at the Met Office's Hadley Centre studying climatic records, doubts this. He says: "We know that El Nino tends to occur every two to seven years. I have found two longer climatic fluctuations linked with El Nino. One occurs every 11 to 13 years, the other every 15 to 20 years. These climatic fluctuations have probably occurred for thousands of years."

BLOWING HOT AND COLD IN DEADLY JULY

JULY was a month when unenviable weather records were set around the world. While Britain merely had cause to grumble at a dull summer, others died in floods and heatwaves (Nigel Hawkes writes).

From Florida through the southern states to Texas and north to Colorado, two months of incessant heat and drought have left more than 100 dead. In Dallas, Texas, and Oklahoma City, temperatures have exceeded 38C (100F) day after day, with no sign of rain.

China, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, and five countries in central Europe suffered the other extreme, with heavy rain and flooding. In central New Zealand

the worst floods in a century forced farmers to use jet skis and kayaks to herd half-submerged cattle.

In China, the Yangtze rose to its highest level in 44 years, as officials called for a "do or die" effort to protect millions living along the river. Nearly five million people from five provinces were mobilised to ensure embankments held firm.

In the three worst-hit provinces, Hunan, Hubei and Jiangxi, more than a million people have been forced from their homes, 29 towns have been flooded, three railways cut off and 450,000 houses destroyed.

This year flooding has killed more than 1,250 people. The high levels on

the Yangtze have also threatened the Three Gorges dam, at a critical stage of construction. The Red Cross has appealed for emergency aid for hundreds of thousands of families in need of food and shelter. "The flooding is the worst in living memory in many areas," it said.

Bangladesh put its Army on full alert at the end of the month as floods hit two thirds of the country. More than 90 died and ten million were affected by the floods.

Five central European countries — Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria and Poland — have also suffered floods. In eastern Slovakia more than 100 were feared dead, while seven died in Poland.

Long-range forecasting presents tough challenge

TRADITIONAL weather forecasts have improved considerably over the past 25 years. Today's three-day forecasts by the Met Office are as accurate as the 24-hour forecasts of the early 1970s.

But seasonal forecasting is a tougher challenge. It depends on longer-term factors than the weather — sea-surface temperatures for example — looked at in combination with mathematical models of the atmosphere.

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, in Reading, has been working on seasonal forecasts for the past three years. Although it does not normally publish its forecasts, in March the centre did predict that spring would be mild and early summer warm in Europe. It claimed in *Nature* magazine that its results, when compared to observations, "are encouraging for the prospects for seasonal forecasting".

The International Research Institute for Climate Prediction in La Jolla, California, is bolder. It publishes seasonal forecasts for all regions of the

Accuracy relies on explaining sea temperature changes, writes Nigel Hawkes

world on the Internet. An examination of some recent predictions by the institute shows it has scored some successes.

It accurately predicted a 45 per cent chance of above-average temperatures in certain US regions this July, and its temperature and rainfall predictions for Europe this summer have also been reasonably accurate.

The institute stresses that its climate outlooks are experimental and local differences should be expected. Until variations in the Atlantic's surface temperature are as well understood as the Pacific's, more accurate seasonal predictions for Europe are unlikely.

The sun looks set to make a welcome return with the first spell of sunshine in the UK expected within days. From Tuesday to Thursday the sun should shine in southern areas, with temperatures rising to 29C (84F). In the North the unsettled weather will continue with outbreaks of rain.

Northern France will experience thunderstorms over the next day or two, a spokesman from the Met Office said. Storms will move east into the Baltic states, to be replaced by sunny weather.

Showers in Southern France will also give way to warmer, sunnier, weather by Thursday with temperatures expected to be close to 30C (86F). Italy, experiencing temperatures of around 35C (95F), is expected to cool slightly but will have little or no rain over the coming days. Spain is expected to become warmer over the next week, from 25C (77F) to over 30C (86F), but with increasing risk of thunderstorms. Greece is sunny and temperatures of up to 38C (100F) are likely to continue.

Forecast, page 22

Village mourns boy, 12, killed by lightning bolt

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

VILLAGERS were mourning yesterday for a 12-year-old boy hit by a bolt of lightning while playing with two friends, Daniel Foster's father, Len, held hands with a group of children at the recreation ground, in Chalgrave, Oxfordshire, where he was killed, to say prayers for his son.

As torrential storms swept through the county on Saturday afternoon, he was struck by lightning and suffered a heart attack. Daniel, who attended Wheatley Park School, had been playing beside the tennis courts. Two paramedic crews were sent to the scene but Daniel died a few hours

later in hospital. His friends, who are also aged 12, were taken to hospital suffering from shock and minor injuries.

The Rev Ian Cohen of the parish church of St Mary paid tribute to Daniel during his Sunday service. Afterwards, he said: "I have been to see his family. They are absolutely devastated. He was an intelligent, happy boy who was doing well at school and got a good school report. Everybody is stunned. They feel very deeply for his family."

Yesterday his father Len, a carpenter, his mother Linda, a library assistant, and older

brother James were too upset to talk about the accident.

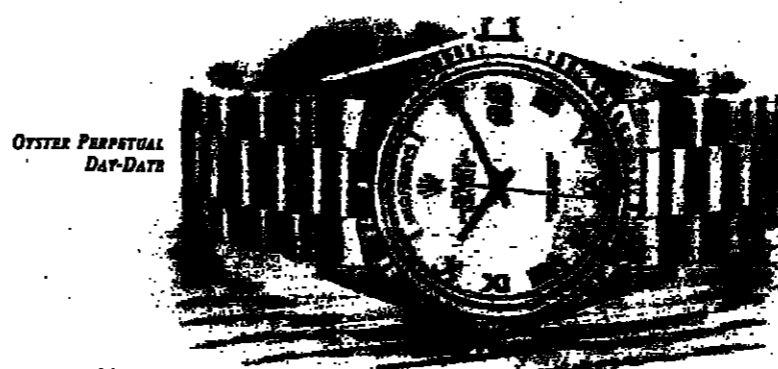
But Pam Jeffries, who lives in the village, said: "It was a very bad storm. It must have been one of the worst we have ever. I was looking out of my bedroom window and I saw three children in the recreation park. I thought it was silly of them hanging around in the pouring rain. Then the rain eased off and a bolt of lightning struck the ground."

"The three lads fell to the floor, followed by a huge clap of thunder. Two on the outside got up and ran. The middle boy was lying on the floor."

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Peter Riddell and Philip Webster speak to the Chancellor about his hopes and how people are adjusting to his 'new world'

In the long view, the future may be Brown

GORDON BROWN used to be accused in Opposition of being a "soundbite" politician. Now he is in office, it would be fairer to describe him as a "sound-paragraph" Chancellor. To any question, whether about the state of the economy, productivity, welfare reform or Europe, he has an answer several sentences long.

Talking at the Treasury at the end of an exhausting and bruising few weeks, Mr Brown was already looking ahead to the Government's big decisions this autumn on welfare reform and to measures in next spring's Budget to improve productivity and to encourage risk-taking by entrepreneurs. He shows no signs of being shaken by the latest gloomy predictions and redundancy announcements from industry. Everything that he has seen in the recent figures, he says, is "in line with what we have been forecasting from last November — the necessary slowing of the growth of the economy in order to get us back on track."

He adds: "We have this prize for Britain which is to move the economy from stop-go to stability. Stability is the platform on which you can have economic growth. Of course, it has to be accompanied by moving from a low to a high-productivity economy." Some ministers and advisers think Mr Brown is giving a hostage to fortune by talking about an end to stop-go. But he believes that Britain now has "a unique opportunity to move from an economy which has

been essentially unstable and volatile for 30 years, when short bursts of growth have been followed by long and deep recessions, to an economy that is capable of more steady and sustained growth". The Chancellor is optimistic that attitudes to inflation can be changed. People are, he believes, beginning to understand why he made the Bank of England operationally independent. He is confident that the inflation target will be met. "People are not choosing wage rises in the knowledge that inflation will be allowed to rise; they know they are making a choice between wage rises and rate rises". Inflation psychology will, he suggests, gradually come out of the system.

6 A mature patriotism is our ability to adapt, our belief in hard work and fair play, and our ability to be open to the world

"I think increasingly people have seen the way that the Bank has made its decisions. This is a new world. For all the criticisms of decisions on individual rate rises, I stand by the decision made on the Bank. It was the right decision and people know it. If the Bank had been made independent earlier, we would be in an even better position now. Everybody knows that, for six months, the Bank was recommending interest rate rises. They have done well in creating this new system from scratch with great effect. People have confidence in the system. Once people realise we have an inflation target that will be met, and that long-term interest rates are at their lowest for 30 years, they will see the possibility of a virtuous circle of lower inflation, lower



Gordon Brown at the Treasury: recent gloomy predictions from industry are "in line with forecasts — the necessary slowing of growth to get us back on track"

long-term rates and higher long-term investment." However, Mr Brown is worried that Britain is "far behind America on productivity, and therefore far behind the best in the world. We are still behind parts of Europe". He highlights three main areas for action: labour market reform, capital market reform, and competition policy. Labour market reform has started with Welfare to Work, training and education, to create a more flexible workforce. On capital market reform, he says: "We are not creating enough successful and growing businesses. We have to get ourselves in a position where barriers to enterprise are broken down. Mrs Thatcher said she created an enterprise society, but there is not enough enterprise in our country." Mr Brown talks of helping venture capitalism. "What can we do to give people

longer-term incentives to increase their performance as managers, incentives for research and development? I want to reward risk and help people become more motivated to succeed." Referring to seminars that he has held with business, Mr Brown said: "I want to look at each rung of the ladder of opportunity to see where there are disincentives and barriers to people moving ahead. I want people who take risk. In the venture capital industry, we found that so many of the resources had been going to management buyouts as opposed to high-technology/high-risk ventures. The agenda for Labour is to create a pro-competition/pro-opportunity economy." He indicated that he was looking at ways to reward real risk-takers "who take decisions and make a success of what they are doing". Mr Brown referred to the recent

government paper on utilities and the situation where public monopolies have become private monopolies. "Executives have been able to pay themselves far more, irrespective of whether the company is winning a stronger position in the market place. This is not a criticism of people facing competition every day in the market place, and people who should be rewarded for the risks they take." Mr Brown was keen to shift the focus of the welfare debate away from the arguments stirred up by Frank Field's departure last week. He stressed that the key principles were to provide work for those who can work, opportunity for those who need it and security for those who need it. But he said that any scheme had to be affordable, in an apparent reference to proposals made by Mr Field which the Treasury estimates would have been very expensive. "I have

made it absolutely clear that however persuasive people are, I am not going to be a tax-and-spending Chancellor." Mr Brown argued that it was logical to start with schemes to help people back into work. He said 60,000 young people had already been taken off the register, while 40,000 lone parents were able to benefit from Welfare to Work. On pensions, Mr Brown denied that reform had stalled, pointing to announcements made on the minimum pension guarantee. "If you are talking about reform that will affect the future of pensions for 40 or 50 years, it is right to insist that we spend the time that is necessary in getting the proposals ready." The Government will produce proposals for consultation in October. Another political event of the autumn will be the publication of the Jenkins Commission on the voting

system. He took a studiously non-committal view of proportional representation: "My view is wait for the Jenkins Commission and look at its recommendations. I see constitutional reform as bigger than the sum total of individual parts. We are moving towards a view of a strong civic society based on enabling Government rather than a command and control Government that is sending down instructions." Mr Brown linked this view of civic society to the need for a strong sense of Britishness. "When I talk about Britishness, I mean a sense of pride in our country — a mature patriotism. It is our ability to adapt. It is our belief in hard work, self-improvement and education as a vehicle for self-improvement. It is our belief in fair play, our ability to look outwards and be open to the world, and to be internationalist in the way we approach

issues like membership of the European Union. "In the 1980s, we were too narrow in our definition of Britishness. It became equated with self-interest and individualism, distrust of foreigners and an unchanging constitution. The idea of expressing Britishness in terms of being anti-European is not in tune with our history. "Britain does best when it is outward-looking and internationalist. To be pro-British you do not have to be anti-European. You don't have to make a choice between America and Europe. A strong relationship between America and Europe, with Britain as a bridge to both, is in everybody's interests." It is to America he flies this week for his usual summer-reading holiday on Cape Cod. **William Rees-Mogg, page 18**
Leading article, and Letters, page 19

Yeo redeemed with frontline post

By NICHOLAS WATT
TIM YEO, who was forced to resign from John Major's Government over an affair, has returned to frontline politics as Shadow Agriculture Minister after the surprise resignation of Michael Jack.

Four years after stepping down as an Environment Minister, Mr Yeo has been asked by William Hague to be the Tories'

fourth agriculture spokesman since the election. Mr Yeo, 53, MP for Suffolk South since 1983, said he was delighted by his appointment and looked forward to attacking the Government's "smug, self-satisfied, back-slapping" approach. Until the weekend he was Opposition spokesman on planning, housing and construction.

Mr Jack, 51, a former Home Office and Treasury minister, said yesterday that he had resigned because he needed to increase his earnings to pay for his children's education. His eldest child is at medical school and his second child is to go to university within a few years. Mr Jack will work as a strategic analyst for a pharmaceuticals firm in his constituency. The promotion of Mr Yeo will strengthen the voice of the pro-Europe wing of the Conservative Party in the Shadow Cabinet.

Sex crime on railway increases by 12%

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SEX CRIMES on the railways rose by 12 per cent last year, according to a report published today by British Transport Police. The report shows that the offences, which include prostitution and homosexual acts but exclude indecent exposure, rose from 675 in 1996-97 to 756 in 1997-98. The figures include reported cases on London Underground, which rose by 33 per cent from 231 in 1996-97 to 308 in 1997-98.

Violent crime investigated by the force across the country rose by nearly 6 per cent from 1,547 cases to 1,639. At the same time the total of reported crime fell by more than 6 per cent from 67,735 offences in 1996-97 to 63,467 in 1997-98.

Commenting on the report, Ivor Warburton, chairman of the Association of Train Operating Companies, said police must address the fear of crime, particularly among women, after a number of recent, highly publicised attacks. Mr Warburton said: "Train operators are heartened by the significant decrease in the overall level of crime on the railways, but will continue to work to reduce the fear of crime."

David Williams, Chief Constable of the force, acknowledged concern over the rise in sex crimes on the railways and said police were dealing increasingly with large numbers of late-night travellers. He said violent sex attacks remained rare but pledged more police work on violent crime.

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Versatile
Hair suits
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travels



Versatile Blair suits himself on foreign travels

Grace Bradberry and Richard Owen get a dressing-down



Arriving for his holiday in Italy, the Prime Minister had discarded the jacket of his light summer suit, leading the Italian Prime Minister to copy him in an attempt to be casual

WHAT to wear to fly off on holiday is not a question that concerns most men unduly. There are still a few who are content to leave such preoccupations to their wives.

Not so Tony Blair, whose attention to hand luggage clearly went a lot further than packing a comb. The Prime Minister had clearly anticipated an obstacle course of protocol, physical discomfort and sartorial one-upmanship on his trip to Italy. For his brief flight he had packed what is described in women's magazines as a "capsule wardrobe with the emphasis on "pieces" that would take him from formal to informal with ease.

To embark, the Prime Minister had picked a light summer suit in a fetching sand colour, but by the time he stepped down onto the tarmac he had already removed the jacket.

Thus he approached the first obstacle in the shape of the Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi. Mr Blair looked insouciant in shirt sleeves. His Italian counterpart hurriedly removed his jacket. And so to the next stage, the meeting with his holiday host, Prince Girolamo Strozzi.

By this stage the shirt had been replaced by a dark blue polo shirt. The suit trousers now revealed their tremendous versatility, looking like chinos. Blair had also slipped on a pair of sandals (how his sons must have cringed).

The prince, meanwhile, was wearing a suit, presumably as a gesture of respect to the British Prime Minister. Mr Blair had presumably judged that he need not make the same gesture in return.

Mr Blair started out with an enormous sports watch clamped to his wrist, but by the time he arrived at the Strozzi estate his wrist was bare — who's counting the minutes on holiday? There was a theatrical quality to the whole enterprise.

Mr Blair's wife Cherie, meanwhile, wore the same wide-legged pink suit throughout.

Mr Blair, his wife, his mother-in-law, and three children are staying on the prince's 1,200-acre estate at Casotta, in the hills near San Gimignano. The prince and his Russian-born wife Irina met the Blairs at the entrance to the 50-room Renaissance villa and showed them the swimming pool and the tennis courts, both surrounded by screens in case a snooper evades the Italian special police guarding the villa and its grounds.

Yesterday, the Blair and Strozzi families attended Mass at the small church on the estate. The service was conducted by an American priest known as Father Jim who lives in San Gimignano and has presided at services attended by the Blairs over the past two summers when they stayed on the nearby estate of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, which also has a private chapel.

Estate officials said the Blair children had read the lessons, and Father Jim had regaled the Blairs and the Strozzi — one of Italy's richest and most ancient wine-producing dynasties — with a sermon on "the perils of consumerism". Downing Street officials said the Blairs had then retired to the villa for a "quiet day of swimming".

While in Tuscany over the next two weeks, Mr Blair is expected to meet Lionel Jospin, France's Socialist Prime Minister, and Oskar Lafontaine, the German Social Democratic leader, who are also both staying in Italy.

Tomorrow Neil Kinnock, Mr Blair's predecessor as Labour leader and now the European Commissioner for Transport arrives with his wife Glenys to stay in a rented house near San Gimignano which local residents describe as "distinctly more modest" than the Strozzi villa.

Meanwhile, the Italian Prime Minister had copied Blair's lead and discarded his jacket, leading Blair to copy him in an attempt to be casual.

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The versatile trousers of Mr Blair's suit now looked like chinos?



At the Strozzi estate, Mr Blair had changed into a dark blue polo shirt while his wife's attire was unchanged

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Pour your heart out, Clinton told

WITH his moment of truth approaching, President Clinton was urged yesterday to "pour his heart out" to the American people about the truth of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

If he admitted he had lied to protect his wife and daughter from embarrassment, and there were no other serious problems, Mr Clinton could expect leniency from Congress and could walk away with his head held high to finish his presidency, said Orrin Hatch, a powerful Republican who is chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"I don't know anyone at the top of the system who wants to see the President hurt," said Mr Hatch, who delivered his impassioned appeal on NBC's *Meet the Press*.

The senator spoke out just two weeks before Mr Clinton is due to give live testimony via closed-circuit television from the White House to grand jurors sitting a mile away in the federal court where Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, has been compiling secret evidence in the Lewinsky case.

Mr Hatch spoke as Mr Clinton came under increasing pressure to admit to the American people that he had a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky.

There are persistent reports in Washington, denied by the White House, that senior Clinton aides are already sounding out members of Congress for their reaction to a possible *mea culpa* speech on television, either before or after his unprecedented grand jury appearance.

Mr Hatch assured Mr Clinton that he would find Americans were a forgiving people. He said that if the President has not told the truth, as at least 60 per cent of Americans believe, he needs to come forward and explain what happened.

Powerful Republican says Americans will forgive President if he is frank, writes Ian Brodie in Washington

ton that he would find Americans were a forgiving people. He said that if the President has not told the truth, as at least 60 per cent of Americans believe, he needs to come forward and explain what happened.

"If the President did lie under oath and did it to protect his wife and daughter, and also doesn't have a lot of other problems, that could certainly result in non-impeachment," Mr Hatch said. Americans would "breathe a sigh of relief". As Mr Hatch put it: "It would go a long way if he would admit it and ask

for some sort of consideration. I think we would bend over backwards to give that consideration."

Mr Hatch said the President would be respected for clearing up any untruths, adding: "I suggest to the President, just tell the truth and I will be there to help." That could be an important offer because Mr Hatch would play an influential role in the decision to pursue any consideration of impeachment in Congress.

But Mr Hatch was careful to explain that his olive branch was limited to the possibility of Mr Clinton committing

perjury to protect his wife and daughter from embarrassment when he denied having a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky during his deposition in Paula Jones's civil suit.

Mr Hatch said it would be more serious if Mr Clinton had committed the felony of telling others to lie under oath. But Mr Starr is reportedly finding that difficult to prove.

Other politicians added their voice to the need for Mr Clinton to give a full accounting of his friendship with Ms Lewinsky. His former chief of staff, Leon Panetta, told the *Los Angeles Times*: "This cup is not going to pass. He's going to have to confront this issue directly."

A new poll strongly suggests that America would forgive Mr Clinton if he admitted making a mistake and was sorry. The poll by *Time* and CNN found that almost 70 per cent believe the Starr investigation could and should end if Mr Clinton apologises.

Even if Mr Clinton did apologise, he would still face legal pitfalls. Ms Jones, for one, could sue to reinstate her lawsuit over her disputed allegation that Mr Clinton exposed himself to her and asked for oral sex.

On Friday, Mr Clinton promised he would testify "completely and truthfully" to the grand jury. Many noted that he did not repeat his adamant denial from last January of having sex with Ms Lewinsky.

In recent days, the case has shifted in Mr Starr's favour. The prosecutor has granted her total immunity and now has a growing body of evidence, including the allegedly



Hillary Clinton, right, putting on a brave face, with the actress Kim Basinger while fund-raising on Saturday



Hatch: 'Congress would be lenient'



Clinton: under pressure to give a full account

sermen-stained dress, messages left by Mr Clinton on her answering machine and details of presents they exchanged when she worked as a 21-year-old White House

trainee. Following his Friday statement, Mr Clinton was a picture of happiness, flashing a cheery thumbs-up sign as he flew off to the Hamptons resorts on Long Island. He

urged his staff not to worry. He told reporters accompanying him to have fun over the weekend. Some wondered if the President's upbeat nonchalance indicated that he had

already decided to confess that he had misled the country over his involvement with Ms Lewinsky and was relieved to have the burden off his shoulders.

US to finance a revival by Saddam's foes

By IAN BRODIE

THE Clinton Administration was reported yesterday to have prepared plans to rebuild Iraq's shattered political Opposition and to make a case for possible indictments for war crimes against President Saddam Hussein and other senior Iraqis.

Funds of \$5 million (£3 million), already made available by Congress, will be used to translate and index millions of captured Iraqi documents for possible use as evidence in war crimes prosecutions.

The funds would also be used to train opposition groups in organising and recruiting techniques and to pay for a centre for exile activities in London. *The Washington Post* said. Another \$5 million will go to setting up an anti-Saddam Radio Free Iraq, broadcasting from Prague.

Senior officials also hinted that a parallel, covert effort to subvert Saddam's regime in Baghdad was under development. The newspaper said. The officials did not expect their plans would lead to an early end to Saddam, but they wanted to support and unify the Iraqi Opposition in the hope of fostering an orderly transition to democracy should he unexpectedly fall.

US State Department officials have held talks with rival Kurdish leaders in northern Iraq over the past month and leaders of two factions have been invited to Washington later this year to help implement the programme. They are Massoud Barzani, of the Kurdish Democratic Party, and Jalal Talabani, of the Popular Union of Kurdistan.

The two have fought each other in the past.

"As long as they are prepared to oppose Saddam, we are prepared to work with them," said Martin Indyk, Assistant-Secretary of State. President Clinton praised the two in June for making positive statements on political reconciliation.

Republicans on Capitol Hill, who will consider the Administration's plan, were not too pleased about it yesterday. They described it as a "baby step" that might lead to a slightly higher profile for the Iraqi Opposition abroad but be of little help inside Iraq.

A Republican Senate aide said the plan was "initially flawed" because some of the 73 Iraqi opposition groups would be "qualified" for American help had been "penetrated by Baghdad".

Israelis in training to fight rapist

Jerusalem: Women in Tel Aviv will be offered self-defence classes it was announced yesterday as the hunt for a serial rapist in the city continues (Ross Dunn writes).

Combat experts will teach students basic moves to aid an escape. The cost will mostly be subsidised by the municipal government.

Three women have been raped, two in their own homes. Two victims were badly beaten.

A team of 20 police officers has been assigned to find the suspect, described as a thin man in his 20s by an Italian tourist who was raped in the stairwell of an apartment building.

Hundreds of women, fearing they could be next, crowded into Tel Aviv weapons stores last week to buy electronic stun guns capable of emitting 65,000 volts, and teargas canisters.

"We usually get a woman in here every two days or so. Now we get ten a day," said David Harel, the owner of a weapons store. "They are taking the threat seriously and they want weapons."

The main advice from a police store owner was "keep a knife under your pillow".

Rangers forgot British hiker

By RORY CALLINAN

IT TOOK more than three weeks to begin the search for a British teenager missing in a remote rainforest because park rangers failed to notice he had not returned, according to an Australian government report.

Daniel Nute, 19, from Tonnes, Devon, was last seen starting a six-hour hike on July 29 last year while on a gap-year trip to Australia. Before setting off into Daintree National Park, northern Queensland, he filled in a bushwalker safety form at a ranger station, saying he was walking alone up Mount Sorrow. He did not return from a jungle wilderness that is home to crocodile swamps, stinging trees, poisonous snakes and dense vegetation that can disorient hikers.

Finally a youth hostel raised the alarm because he had not collected camping equipment left in his room. His father, Fraser, and brother, Ben, flew out to assist in a ground and helicopter search but no trace was found.

The report by Michael Chep, a senior government investigator, said rangers' staff's actions "cannot be considered as appropriate". Lindsay Debozzo, regional director for the Queensland state government department, said the rangers had made an "obvious mistake". Fraser

Nute said he had not yet received a copy of the report, adding: "We go on hoping and believing that Daniel is still alive."

One ranger said the area was treacherous, even for locals, because in July early winter sunsets blacked out the dense vegetation by 3.30pm.

Queensland's environment department said the park was revising its procedures to prevent such an episode happening again.



Nute failed to return

Railtrack Group PLC Annual General Meeting Tuesday, 21st July 1998

Correction to poll results published on Friday, 24th July 1998

Railtrack Group PLC have been advised that the poll result of those share holders voting on Resolution 14 ("That authority be granted to offer shares instead of a cash dividend") was incorrectly quoted. The correct poll result was 151,797,297 For and 529,753 Against.

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THE TIMES MONDAY AUGUST 3 1998

Media veterans return to the Killing Fields

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

IT SEEMED that the entire cast of *The Killing Fields* had returned to Phnom Penh for the recent general election. Their presence recreated the atmosphere of the Seventies, not least in the aroma of marijuana that wafted through the riverside Foreign Correspondents Club (FCC). One almost expected to see Graham Greene, whose classic *The Quiet American* was on neighbouring Vietnam, drift through the corridors of the Hotel Le Royal. The base of correspondents during the Indo-China wars has been expensively renovated but is largely bereft of tourists because of the potential for sudden violence in Cambodia.

Le Royal was again home to Cambodia veterans such as Jon Swain of *The Sunday Times*, author of the recent memoir *River of Time*. "During the last year of the war," Swain recalled, "rooms on the top floor were going for just \$5 (£3). Phnom Penh was being rocketed and no-one wanted to be up there." They cost a lot more than \$5 now.

It was at Le Royal in early 1970 that correspondents waited with increasing anxiety for their colleagues to return from the field late every afternoon, before conducting a headcount. In a few weeks, about 20 correspondents did not come back.

Perhaps it was no accident that the final scenes in the filmed version of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* — *Apocalypse Now* — featured Cambodia. It is also appropriate that the most popular bar in Phnom Penh with relief agency volunteers and reporters, located next to the FCC, is the dark and dingy "Heart of Darkness".

Last week Michael Hayes, editor of the *Phnom Penh Post*, had to travel to the airport on an emergency mission to meet two arriving journalists. He carried with him a box of "reefers" — marijuana is legal in Cambodia as locals use it in a potent soup — for one, and a pistol for another who has made enemies here. The recipient of the box was Vietnam War-era and much-wounded photographer Tim Page. His book, *Requiem*, of war pictures taken by photographers killed in the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia, was recently published. Page grabbed his reefers gratefully and lit up.

There was something of cloud-cuckoo-land about the election since there were observers from opponents of democracy such as China, Vietnam and Burma.

An open-house reunion at the rebuilt French Embassy brought the veterans together. It was there in 1975 that all the surviving foreigners took refuge from the Khmer Rouge before they were eventually

driven in a lorry to Thailand. There was no marijuana here, but the champagne flowed.

Another stalwart present, portrayed in David Putnam's classic on the fall of Phnom Penh, was Al Rockoff, who is still working on a book of photographs which is to portray the history of Cambodia from the Khmer Rouge's "Year Zero".

Rockoff is famous for one of the best one-liners of the Indo-Chinese wars. On a trip outside Phnom Penh, he was hit by shrapnel during a mortar attack and his heart had stopped beating. But a Swedish medical team managed to resuscitate him. Some months later, Rockoff was again going to cover an attack when a newly arrived correspondent told him: "Don't go down there, Al, you'll be killed." "Well," drawled Rockoff, "it wouldn't be the first time."

Pol Pot's former right-hand man, Ieng Sary, who defected to the government side in 1996, was also in town, staying at a hotel partly owned by General Tea Banh, presently Defence Minister. As they dined together, the former foes kept staring at Thomas Hammarberg, the United Nations special representative on human rights who has criticised the present regime's abuses and pushed for the trial of all Khmer Rouge leaders.

"They were clearly speaking about me and, at one stage, pointed directly at me across the dining room," Mr Hammarberg said later. "I must admit it was a decidedly uncomfortable feeling."

The heart of darkness, it seems, still beats here.

Hun Sen attacks intimidators

Phnom Penh: Hun Sen, the Prime Minister whose party won Cambodia's election but who needs to form a coalition to hold power, yesterday ordered an end to intimidation which has sent scores of opposition supporters fleeing their homes. A week after the poll, amid complaints of fraud, the Government held a party to thank international observers. But opposition leaders said they were not doing their job well. (AFP)

Leading article, page 19

Body of Rhodes 'to be dug up'

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE



Rhodes buried in western Zimbabwe

THE leader of a black empowerment group plans to dig up the remains of Cecil Rhodes, the mining magnate and arch-imperialist who founded Rhodesia, from their resting place in western Zimbabwe.

If the British Government fails to collect the remains, they will be thrown into the Zambezi river, said Lawrence Chakaredza, self-appointed head of Sangano Mamhumutapa, a pressure group of undefined membership with a reputation for outrageous

statements. "One morning the nation will find the national shrine cleansed of the white man's grave which is a mockery to the traditional importance attached to the place," said Mr Chakaredza, who calls himself Mamhumutapa III after a traditional chief. Rhodes was buried in 1902 in the Matopos hills just south of Bulawayo.

Strikes banned: President Mugabe imposed a near-total ban on strikes at the weekend. The move is primarily intended to stop the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions from holding a five-day strike.



The end of *L'Orient*: the French flagship explodes during the daring raid by Nelson's fleet. Divers have located the vessel 35ft down

Divers find blast from Nelson's past

Objects have been recovered from the French flagship at the Battle of the Nile, writes Mike Murphy

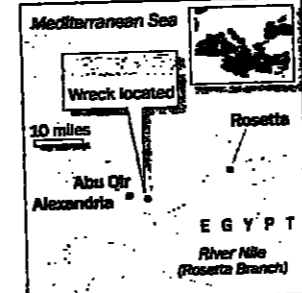
EGYPTIAN and international archaeologists diving in the Mediterranean east of Alexandria have found an astonishing array of artefacts from *L'Orient*, Napoleon's flagship at the Battle of the Nile.

Cannon, navigational instruments, swords, and personal items such as belt buckles, pipes, shoes and tobacco tins, have been found in and around the shell of the vessel, which exploded 200 years ago after being set afire by Nelson's fleet in a crucial battle.

"The explosion must have been enormous," said Franck Goddio, leader of the diving team, from his Paris home yesterday. Contemporary reports describe how the blast was seen 25 miles away in Alexandria.

"We are finding objects from the ship dispersed over an area of half to three-quarters of a mile. And one gun weighing six tonnes had been blown half a mile."

The diving team is also finding hundreds of gold, silver and copper coins from the reigns of Louis XIV, XV and XVI as well as the period of the French Revolution. "It is remarkable to think of fighting men after the Revolution carrying coins bearing the likenesses of the hated kings they had helped to overthrow," Mr Goddio said.



Napoleon: defeat at the Battle of the Nile led to a withdrawal by the French from the Middle East

set. "We are finding dozens of letters, scattered everywhere. We know Napoleon carried a printing press with him, for making announcements to his generals and the conquered Egyptians, but it is amazing to find the evidence all over the seabed."

The decisive battle came on August 1, 1798, after the French fleet of 13 battleships, intended to occupy Egypt, had already seized Malta and seven million francs in gold and jewellery. The landing force of 38,000 troops disembarked in Alexandria and the fleet anchored in a mile-long line in the shelter of Abu Qir Bay.

In a daring manoeuvre, Nelson's fleet — the same size — dashed past the western end of the line in water considered too shallow for battleships, and took the French by surprise.

Attacked from both seaward and landward sides, the French were annihilated. The defeat cut Napoleon's line of communication with France and was eventually responsible for his withdrawal from the Middle East.

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Britain provides reform model to free up packed prisons

GERMANY, it seems, can still learn from Britain. As the economy picks up, so the advantages of the "British model" appear less obvious. Hamburg's media says Tony Blair has lost his shine and that recession is around the corner. Siemens and BMW are ready to shed British jobs.

But German politicians have identified one area where Britain can set the pace: prison management. To anyone familiar with the ferment in British jails, that may appear a trifle ridiculous. However, many German experts believe their jails are about to explode. Privat-

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

isation, on British or American lines, is regarded by some as a solution and condemned by others. Inevitably — with all the main parties

wanting to show themselves tough on crime — it has become an election issue. Bavaria shows the scope of the problem. The overspill means that many prisoners are sleeping on mattresses on the floor. Television and leisure rooms are being converted into extra sleeping space. Consultations with lawyers are held in corridors. Many inmates do not have cupboards to store their belongings. The freeze on new recruitment has resulted in every warder working long hours. The accumulated overtime now amounts to 36,890 days — more than 100 years. Bureaucracy makes mat-

ters worse. A prisoner wanting to make a telephone call has to inform the block warder who tells the social worker who checks with the financial department and reports back to the warder who decides whether the convict can make his five-minute call. Shortages run through the whole judicial system: too few judges, too few guards in court. Sometimes prisoners cannot appear because there is no one available to escort them to court. People run amok in courtyards because there is no control at the door. And the prisons are sardine cans — more than 50,000 inmates in the country, a

postwar record. By 2004 Germany will need 20 per cent more prison capacity. A group of deputies from the Hesse state parliament travelled to London recently to investigate prison privatisation. They — and other German parliamentarians — have been converted. Christian Democrats argue that privatisation is simply a rational use of resources.

The Justice Minister of Rheinland Palatinat, Peter Cascar, a Free Democrat, says that if private companies can build him a men's prison more quickly than a state-led consortium,

they should get the contract. Most prison services — the kitchens, laundry, technical management, psychological and medical support — could, he says, be farmed out to private companies. Even Social Democrats favour privatisation because they can think of no other way of freeing money for drug rehabilitation, aggression therapy and other favourite projects.

So what is holding the Germans back? First a sense that the jury is still out on the British experience. "I do not like the idea of shareholder value impinging on areas where it has no business," says Rupert von Plottitz, the

Hesse Justice Minister. "Prisons should remain a state monopoly."

He argues that prison should help reintegrate offenders. That requires expert and time-consuming therapies — the first services to go when a prison starts to think in terms of profitability.

Despite the horror stories leaking out of German prisons, most offenders have a reasonable life. Many jails have a choice of three menus for lunch — standard, vegetarian and Muslim. Peter Graf, the father of the tennis star Steffi, had his meals

delivered from a nearby five-star hotel. Young offenders are sometimes taken, as part of a resocialising programme, to Majorca or Sri Lanka.

Such concessions are seized on by the press and by conservatives. Privatisation, it is thought, will end feather-bedding of convicts. At election time everybody is conservative on law and order and so the prison debate is partly obscured. By October the Germans will have a new government. Will it be strong enough to apply new solutions to old but increasingly menacing social problems?

Serbian forces put torch to Kosovo villages

FROM TOM WALKER IN ORAHOVAC

VILLAGES were burning across central Kosovo yesterday, sending thousands more ethnic Albanians fleeing into the surrounding woods. Only last week President Milosevic of Yugoslavia claimed that the security operation in the area was over.

As the United Nations, the Red Cross and other aid agencies began delivering food and medicine to prevent a catastrophe, the Serbian police were almost blasé about the humanitarian crisis as they continued their ethnic-cleansing operations. Some even waved to reporters as their colleagues wandered around deserted Albanian settlements, a Kalashnikov in one hand and a jerrycan of petrol in the other.

Pretty stone-walled villages in rolling countryside were punctured by shell and grenade holes as smoke billowed from the gutted interiors. The police merrily torched haystacks. German television filmed officers firing flares into maize fields. Along the main roads, which the Serbs are intent on keeping open, a scorched-earth policy was being implemented.

The misery of the bewildered refugees was compounded by the sadness of what they had left behind: their devastated villages are

full of livestock slowly dying without food and water. Pockets of Kosovo Liberation Army rebels sit in the woods and attempt daring night raids to rescue some of the animals. But it is a hazardous mission.

Yesterday the Serbs claimed that the guerrillas had fired at traffic on the east-west Pristina to Pec road, which was promptly closed so that bombardments could go unseen by observers of the five-nation Contact Group and journalists. Kosovans reported heavy attacks against villages in central Drenica, around Llaushë, and further west around the town of Klinë. Shells were reported falling near houses crammed with refugees.

In Orahovac, where the Yugoslav Army helped the police repulse the first KLA attack on an urban area ten days ago, Kosovans were being allowed back. Mostly men, they formed a pathetic queue at a sandbagged police checkpoint, where they were re-registered before being allowed into a town where angry Serb mobs still linger on most corners.

Police have closed off areas of the town, and there are persistent rumours of a mass grave hidden somewhere in the surrounding hills. But Orahovac is still no place to

ask questions, and even Contact Group monitors, who held secret talks with Kosovans, were shadowed by Serb thugs on Friday.

"It is quite hypocritical of Milosevic to say that the international agencies can escort refugees back to their villages," said a journalist at the Pristina daily *Bujku*. "At least 30 per cent will never return. And do you think Milosevic is going to rebuild houses?"

Police and army units in the midst of this wasteland were in high spirits, blithely unaware of the public relations disaster they were presenting. The primitive nature of Kosovo's conflict depressed diplomats, many of whom felt that they had been cynically deceived by Mr Milosevic. "A few weeks ago the Kosovans were poking the Serbs in the eye," said one. "Then several days later we get this Balkan thing: the Serbs have poked the Albanians in both eyes. But nobody is fooled by Milosevic any longer."

Amsterdam: The Yugoslavia war crimes tribunal is to launch an internal inquiry into the death at the weekend of a top suspect, the second in just over a month. Milan Kovacevic, 57, a Bosnian Serb, died in his cell at the weekend of a heart attack. (Reuters)



An armed Serb civilian peers from behind a wall of his house near Kijevo, where shooting erupted after Kosovo Liberation Army rebels staged an attack on a Serb police convoy near the town along the main east-west Pristina to Pec highway

Bank admits guilt over Jewish gold

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

DEUTSCHE Bank has become the latest German company to accept a measure of guilt for its conduct during the Second World War by expressing "deep regret" about its role in taking tainted Nazi gold.

An unusual statement by Germany's largest commercial bank conceded "moral and ethical responsibility for the darkest chapter of its history". The bank was responding to the report of an independent historical commission which said Deutsche Bank might well have known that gold bought from Hitler's central bank, the Reichsbank, was taken from concentration camp victims.

The historians calculate that Deutsche bought 4,446kg (9,780lb) of gold, which may have included some delivered in sealed sacks by Bruno Melmer, an SS officer, to the Reichsbank in Berlin from deposits in Auschwitz concentration camp: that is, gold smelted from tooth fillings of camp inmates, from wedding rings and personal jewellery.

The Deutsche Bank statement accepted moral responsibility but did not mention legal or financial obligations. "The bank regrets most deeply the injustice that took place... as has always been stressed, Deutsche Bank fully acknowledges its moral and ethical responsibility for the darkest chapter of its history."

The omission was significant because Holocaust survivors have filed an \$11 million lawsuit in New York against Deutsche and Dresdner banks. The banks have rejected the claim, saying independent historians were not able to show that bank directors knew the origin of the gold. But the five historians who are investigating Deutsche's archives — they have been drawn from Israel, United States, Britain and Germany — say such prior knowledge cannot now be ruled out.

It is difficult to pin down the banks' precisely because key files relating to the so-called Melmer gold disappeared from Bundesbank archives. According to an investigation conducted by the United States Bundesbank and the Federal Archives in Koblenz, the 26 missing Melmer files seem to have been available until 1976.

In that year, or shortly afterwards, they were almost certainly pulped, along with thousands of other dossiers of the Nazi era.

The federal archivists said this week that it was "intolerable and unforgivable that documents so closely associ-

ated with National Socialist crimes could have been split up and then allowed to disappear."

The investigators excluded the possibility of a coverup, as "the historical significance of the files could not be properly established at the time".

However, Herrsch Fischer, a freelance historical investigator, said yesterday that buried in the German Finance Ministry there should still be exchanges of correspondence on the missing gold files.

"If the files really were destroyed it could not have happened without the knowledge of the United States," Herr Fischer said.

The US was involved in the handover of gold files in 1948 from the Reichsbank to the Bank of German States — the forerunner of the Bundesbank. The inventory at the time registered "26 folders re Melmer deposits".

The United States, in other words, was fully aware that evidence on concentration camp gold was sitting in the

Deutsche Bank fully acknowledges its moral and ethical responsibility



An ex-soldier takes a punch at a security man in Moscow yesterday on Paratroopers' Day, often an occasion for binge drinking

Drink lures Russians to early grave

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BEWILDERED by the rapid pace of change since the collapse of Communism, Russians are drinking themselves into an early grave. A new study published in the latest edition of the *British Medical Journal* found that in the early 1990s average life expectancy in Russia fell by more than six years, mainly as a result of crime, the widening gap in incomes, social dislocation and, above all, the huge amount of binge drinking.

Between 1990 and 1994, the period when the Soviet Union collapsed, life expectancy for men fell in some areas by an astonishing 8.6 years, with many men dying in their early forties. The greatest falls were often in relatively prosperous and industrialised areas, which have been most affected by the collapse of industry, the changes in working patterns and the increase in heavy drinking. The fall was not so great for women, though in some areas they too were dying by up to four years younger.

The figures add to the alarming demographic forecasts for Russia, which has one of the world's greatest imbalances between

male and female life expectancy and has recorded a steady fall in the average age of death for 20 years. The analysis, led by Professor Martin McKee of London's European Centre on Health of Societies in Transition, was based on Russian statistics.

It found a huge rise in male deaths from accidents and cardiovascular disease, classic results of heavy drinking. They also found that thousands more men were committing suicide, a symptom noted 100 years ago in societies in rapid change where the population was faced with sudden and unexpected psychological problems.

The fall in life expectancy was especially marked in northern Russia — where the cold has always prompted greater alcohol consumption — and much less obvious in the south and in Muslim areas.

The worsening situation appeared unrelated to poverty or the deteriorating health service. "The age groups affected most are those with least contact with health services, with people dying of causes that are relatively insensitive to medical care," the study said. Much of the deterioration can be

explained by unemployment and rapid labour turnover — a new phenomenon in Russia — as well as widening gaps between rich and poor, and crime, a reliable indicator of a breakdown in social cohesion.

Murder rates in Russia are high, but homicides still accounted for only 1.2 per cent of all reported crime. However, while many — especially men — fell victims to crime, the overall rise in criminality had a greater influence in disrupting work patterns, accounting for almost 40 per cent of labour turnover in 1994.

The analysis concluded that the scale of transition in Russia was extreme, leading men especially to self-destruction by suicide or drinking.

Moscow: Alexander Shkadov, chief executive of Russia's biggest diamond processing plant, Kristall, was shot dead in an apparent contract killing. Police in Spolensk, west of Moscow, were yesterday quoted by Russian television and the Itar-Tass news agency as saying they did not exclude commercial or political motives for the murder on Saturday. (Reuters)

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Two monkeys changed my life

Professor Pat Wright is the world's pre-eminent primatologist. Interview by Barry Wigmore

Patricia Wright's life was transformed by two small monkeys. Thirty years ago she was "just another housewife" in New York. Then she saw a little bundle of fur in a pet shop and, because it was the Sixties and nobody thought much about endangered species in those days or how wrong it was to snatch animals from the wild and sell them in the concrete jungle, she bought it. Pat felt Herbie was just right for her small Brooklyn apartment.

But Herbie was lonely, so Pat found him a mate named Kendra. Six years later, both Pat and Kendra gave birth to female offspring in the same week. Fate, and that coincidence, launched Pat on a career that turned her into Professor Wright, explorer, saviour of rainforests and discoverer of species thought to be extinct. She became the world's pre-eminent primatologist, especially on the subject of Madagascar lemurs.

It's a long way from Brooklyn to the 112,000-acre Ranomafana National Park on Madagascar. Professor Wright made it there by way of South America. En route she divorced one husband, married another and probably saved a tribe from starvation. She grins at the memory: "I guess I saw myself settling down, having children, just like my mother did. I hoped I would be able to accomplish things but I had no idea what."

Herbie and Kendra were owl monkeys, a nocturnal species. As Pat took time off from her job as a social worker to care for her daughter, Amanda, she couldn't help noticing that there was monkey business afoot with her house guests. While Kendra breast-fed her little one, it was dad Herbie who did everything else. Pat went to the library to find out why, but discovered that to one knew. "This was when I realised what I wanted to do," she says.

As a girl, Pat, the eldest of six children, had always been interested in animals. She had wandered for hours with her father through the woods around her home in upstate New York. Her favourite reading was always Gerald Durrell.

So Patricia Wright, Brooklyn housewife and new mother, decided to go to the South American rainforests to study owl monkeys. Just like that? "Just like that," she says with a grin. She started applying for grants which were not forthcoming. "You're crazy," she was told. "No one goes into the rain forest at night, and that's the only time you can study night monkeys."

Lesser mortals might have given up. But Pat heard about an heiress, Nancy Mulligan, who was interested in wildlife. She wrote to her. Nancy wanted to help Pat, but her lawyers said she couldn't unless this student of monkeys was affiliated to a university. Pat pulled strings, became affiliated, and Nancy gave her \$3,000 (about £1,200 in the Seventies).

With husband and baby - and Herbie, Kendra and their baby in tow, because no one would monkey-sit for four months - Pat set off for Peru by six-seater plane and dugout canoe. Their native guide was reluctant to venture away from camp at night, so one evening Pat took a torch, her



The housewives' Indiana Jones? Pat Wright was a housewife until a passion for animals and adventure turned her into a remarkable authority on lemurs

notebook and a roll of tape to mark her trail and went looking for monkeys. "I got lost. I couldn't find the tape," she says. Then she heard a familiar sound - Herbie's distant cousin, chattering in the forest. She made notes as the monkey swung in the trees above and hurled fruit and urinated on her. In the morning, Indians took her back to her camp. "It was fun," she says. "Anthropology is being a detective, trying to find answers."

Back home, her findings were published in an anthropology journal. Pat's conclusion - that the males cared for the children because the females were not big enough to protect them - was groundbreaking. She was persuaded to return to university. Her marriage suffered as she studied, but she graduated in 1985.

Meanwhile, in another twist of fate, she had discovered Madagascar. Studying with a group in Nairobi in 1984, she and her fellow students bought a cheap flight to the island off the east coast of Africa.

Flying over it, Patricia was devastated. "In many ways it's like the Galapagos Islands," she says. "It broke away from the continent millions of years ago and developed a separate ecosystem. Then man arrived and started slash-and-burn farming. I knew what pristine rainforest was, and 80 per cent of the island's forests had been destroyed. The red soil was bleeding into the river." On the ground, she had never seen people so poor after years of communist control. "I had to leave. I was

so upset," she says. But the following year she was back, lured by the chance to study another type of monkey, the chimpanzee-sized lemurs, which are found only on Madagascar. In particular, she wanted to find out how lemurs had developed a female-dominated society in which males are even rejected sexually until they have shown the proper submission. She also wanted to confirm or disprove the belief that the greater bamboo-eating species was extinct. "This is a distinctive, dark-

grey lemur with white ear tufts," she says. "I sat in the rainforest for two weeks, waiting for one, when I heard a sound I had never heard before. Suddenly, this creature races out of the undergrowth. It is much smaller than the greater bamboo and is almost orange in colour."

It took a year to capture one of the animals so blood samples could be taken. It was a new species, now called the "golden bamboo lemur", and it lives in harmony with the great gentle lemur and the greater bamboo lemur, which, to her delight, Patricia also found, alive and well. Each species eats a different section of the bamboo, and one interesting side-effect of Professor Wright's discovery is that the golden lemur eats a section of bamboo which contains large amounts of cyanide. By studying the lemur, scientists may be able to devise an antidote to the poison. How then does a 52-year-old native New Yorker adapt to roughing it in the jungle for months? "You bathe in streams, eat rice and beans and comb your hair once a day. It's exciting, real Indiana Jones stuff. I still love exploring."

Pat's work was not done, however. Slash-and-burn farming threatened the lemurs' bamboo habitat. The restrictive regime had been overthrown and a progressive Government took over. It asked Professor Wright for help. She drew up a plan to turn the 112,000-acre rainforest into the Ranomafana National Park, financed largely through eco-tourism, helped by the British company Earthwatch. The park is a big draw. Local villagers have been trained as park rangers, guides and conservationists.

Village elders are paid for their knowledge of the area and are quick to tell Professor Wright when she makes mistakes. She says: "We built a rainforest museum. But worried elders said, 'We have played a part here, and we are proud of our heritage. We have many artefacts we could contribute.' They came back with wonderful material: ancient money, French currency from the 1920s, musical instruments."

"We told them it would be on loan to the museum but that they would always own it, and drew up a contract with them."

Professor Wright says her work is still far from done in Madagascar. She is eight years into a decade-long study of the male-female relationship among lemurs. She is also working with the Government on a project to re-grow sections of rainforest. "It's not that difficult. We have farmers and schoolchildren planting 8,000 trees. The lemurs help to spread the forest because they eat seeds from the trees and pass them through their gut, and they grow better. The people don't want the forest to die - for them there was no option, it was slash-and-burn to farm, or starve. We are showing them the alternatives."

Pat pauses. "I have the most exciting job in the world," she says. "But much of it has nothing to do with the anthropology I've learnt. I just apply a Brooklyn housewife's common sense to the problems I encounter. And it works."

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THE BOMB and the nuclear power plant are Siamese twins, linked through plutonium. As the Indians showed, plutonium produced in a nuclear power plant provides the easiest route to nuclear weapons.

In the past, international safeguard procedures were the only way of breaking that link but, like all diplomatic agreements, they remain in force only so long as they suit both parties.

A technical solution, which permanently separated the twins, would be more satisfactory. This solution does now exist, according to a company based in Washington, Radkowsky Thorium Power Corporation.

Last week company representatives were in Moscow finalising an agreement with the Kurchatov Nuclear Safety Institute and a fuel manufacturer, MSZ Electrostat, which will result in the technology being put to the test in a Russian reactor by 2002.

Had the Indians been supplied with this type of fuel, they would have found creating a bomb by the route they chose almost impossible.

In an ordinary reactor, fissile uranium-235 is split, yielding neutrons that maintain the fission reaction and also convert surrounding uranium-238 into plutonium-239. This can be separated from the spent fuel chemically, and is itself fissile (it will sustain the nuclear

A way to keep bomb at bay

chain reaction needed for a bomb).

Aviv Radkowsky, now a professor at Tel Aviv University in Israel but for many years the top designer on the US Navy's nuclear power plants, was responsible for designing the alternative, which the company named after him. Its attraction is that it can be used instead of uranium in existing nuclear plants, and can be dropped in without the need for a complete redesign. That makes the costs of the change much more manageable.

The new fuel comprises a core containing uranium, surrounded by a "blanket" of thorium, an element which is not fissile but which is converted



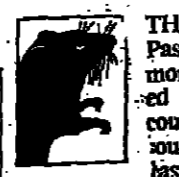
SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

by neutrons into fissile uranium-233. Thorium is cheap and plentiful, so there is no supply problem. And the uranium-233 produced is much harder to separate than plutonium, making bombs a much more difficult proposition.

The reactor produces only about a fifth as much plutonium as a conventional plant. This plutonium would be inclined to make any weapon "fizzle" rather than explode, cutting its yield by 95-97 per cent.

The deal reached by the Radkowsky Corporation and the Russians provides for a Russian water-cooled reactor to be retrofitted with a thorium core by 2002, and for Electrostat to reach full-scale production of

Grain of truth about plague



THE JEWISH Passover ceremony, celebrated each spring, could have a sound hygienic basis, says Dr Martin Blaser, an expert in infectious disease at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. As part of the ceremony, all leavened bread, grain and crumbs are removed from the house and replaced by unleavened bread.

Dr Blaser told the American science magazine, Discover, that the removal of bread and grain may have protected the Jews from plague, carried by fleas which infest rats. Stored grain attracts rats, as

an outbreak of the disease in 1993 made clear. That was in Zaire, where grain had been stockpiled after a civil war.

Clearing grain from the home forces the rats to look elsewhere, assuming that unleavened bread is not equally attractive to them. But is there any evidence that Jews have suffered less from plague? The Bible tells of plagues that killed Egyptian firstborn, but gives no clear data on Jewish survival. The Black Death in Europe in the 14th century seems to have attacked Jews and Gentiles alike, but there are reports that when plague struck Venice in the spring of 1631, Jewish deaths were only half those of the Christians.

the fuel by 2005 for any world utility that wants to buy it. The attraction for the Russians is obvious, but those worried about nuclear proliferation are also showing interest. "It's a lot better than what we've got," says Dr Robert Williams of Princeton University Centre for Energy and Environment Studies.

But it certainly isn't the complete answer. It would still be open to would-be nuclear powers to make bombs by enriching uranium.

This is more difficult, but it was the route successfully followed by Pakistan, and there is no technical fix to prevent it recurring.

Swagman's desert song

DON'T tell the swagman, but a coolabah tree, under which he rested in Australia's national song, *Waltzing Matilda*, may be in peril. A report by scientists from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation says that more care needs to be taken of the ground water necessary for the coolabah and other plants.

"Much of the Australian environment depends on underground water," says Dr Tom Hatton of CSIRO. "The trouble is, we don't know how much or to what extent."

Even when Australian rivers appear to have run dry, they continue to flow underground. They can then resurface and recharge rivers farther downstream. Dr Hatton gives warning that drilling wells to provide water for cattle, industry or domestic use can interrupt this process. Among the plants most reliant on ground water are the banksia woodlands of Western Australia's coastal plain.

The report calls for an assessment of how vulnerable ecosystems are, and a national policy for deciding how much ground water can safely be abstracted. "The classic Australian image is of a swagman under a gum tree beside a billabong," says Dr Hatton. "Those gum trees depend on ground water to keep them alive through the dry season. We are running the risk of killing an emblem of Australia we have had since *Waltzing Matilda* was first sung."



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VIOLET: Satin backless beaded strap top, £170, and grey diamanté-trim trousers, £190, by Violet, 11 Pont Street, SW3 (0171-259 5966).
Oliver Spencer's family has a business making ecclesiastical vestments, so it is perhaps not surprising that when he set up Favourbrook in 1990, his aim was to create menswear that was traditional in feel but made from fantastic textiles. "Favourbrook wasn't really about fashion but, then again, it wasn't conservative either, so we had this particular place in the market," he says.

Spencer never planned to become involved in fashion as such — he was more interested in occasion-wear — but, with the launch of a women's wear line three years ago, a new, younger customer began to discover the label. Now he has launched Violet to serve those women. "I got together with the stylist Charty Durrant, and we thought, 'right, we've got these fabulous textiles, why don't do we do something younger?'"
The silhouettes remain simple, but Spencer has let rip with the detailing: beading, embroi-

dery, sequins and faux fur all feature. Whereas Favourbrook women's wear centres on a relatively small number of jacket, dress and skirt shapes, Violet includes pedal pushers, bandeaux and wraps, with more of an edge to the design. The fabrics, however, are outstanding. All are designed in-house and made in either Suffolk or Lyons.
The business goes from strength to strength, with 36 US stockists, and plans to show in New York in September, in the slot after Calvin Klein.

How to stay ahead of the in-crowd

The hottest new British designers for autumn are interested only in beautiful clothes, says Grace Bradberry



ROWENA GILL: Beaded flapper dress with grey slip underneath and jewel-encrusted strappy shoes, all by Rowena Gill, available made-to-order from Arabesk, 156 Wallon Street, SW3 (0171-594 3858).

Rowena Gill, 25, studied fashion at the Studio Berçot in France, then took a job in a Parisian fashion company at the age of 18. Walking home one night, she noticed a trail of jet beads spilling from a dustbin.
As she was looking at them, a man appeared and said he had a trunkful in his attic. She followed him upstairs and left with several bags of beads from the 1800s. They were the beginning of her inspirational designs.
It sounds like a fairytale, and Gill is very much wedded to the "fashion-as-fantasy" school of thought — she was one of those children who enjoys dressing up as Cinderella or Snow White. That chance encounter in Paris changed her career and, at 23, she was creating beaded catwalk sensations for Lacroix and Ungaro.
She has also worked for Galliano and Chloé. A few years ago she set up her own label in Britain (Gill is English), and her collection features spectacular dresses with a mythical feel. Her designs are unabashedly glamorous but also directional. The dress shown here follows the autumn trend for flapper-style evening wear.

Glass beads form fringes over dresses, while armlets are studded with multi-faceted gemstones, and chokers feature antique bugle beads. There are also Cinderella-like shoes and decorative bags.



UNIFORM: Off-the-shoulder fleece top, £115. Grey and red-appliqué trousers, £75, with lace-up pockets by Uniform, available from Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-491 7833). Browns Focus, 38-39 South Molton Street, (0171-429 0666) and Kokon, Tzani, 57 Greek Street, W1 (0171-434 1316) national inquiries: 0171-430 1999. Black leather highheel boots, £165, by Johnny Moke, 396 Kings Road, S/W10 (0171-351 2232).

It may be a new label, known only to the cognoscenti, but there's already a buzz about Uniform, designed by Royal College of Art graduates Roger Lee and Lesley Sealey. Forget about fashion shows in abattoirs and alarmingly cut trousers: London's younger designers seem to be taking a different turn, towards something closer to couture — beautiful fabrics, fine finishes — then fusing this with elements of streetwear.

Lee and Sealey are adamant that they don't want to be the new-anything — inevitably you soon become the old something. They simply want to attract customers by offering subtle clothes with clever surprises.

Sealey is predominantly a textile designer and spent her final year at the RCA in India, learning new embroidery and print ideas. He did a work placement with Karl Lagerfeld. He is particularly interested in experimenting with proportion and in using interesting surface textures.

Collection 2, as it is known, uses basic fabrics such as suiting, corduroy, pinstripe and denim, then adds unexpected details.

Photographer: Jonathan Bookallil; Stylist: Sunny Rowley at Detail; Hair: Juan Carlos at GSM; Make-up: Denise Lilley at The Work; Model: Fanny at Models One

X

IT'S GETTING CLOSER

MULLIGAN BY TRACY MULLIGAN: Black strapless jet-beaded dress, £362, available from Harvey Nichols (0171-637 1450). Jet-beaded necklace by Rowena Gill, from Arabesk (0171-594 3858).
Tracy Mulligan has enjoyed the "new designer" epithet before. In the mid-Nineties she was one half of the Sonnentag Mulligan design label, which was too successful and was deluged with orders it found difficult to meet. This time round, she spent months on the production before staging a small, off-schedule show during the last London Fashion Week. Her "urban spiritualist" collection, a clever fusion of rustic and metropolitan, has been bought by Harvey Nichols and Saks 5th Avenue, among others.
Mulligan's inspirations range from capitalism to the Orkney Islands. The collection features print and embroidery.



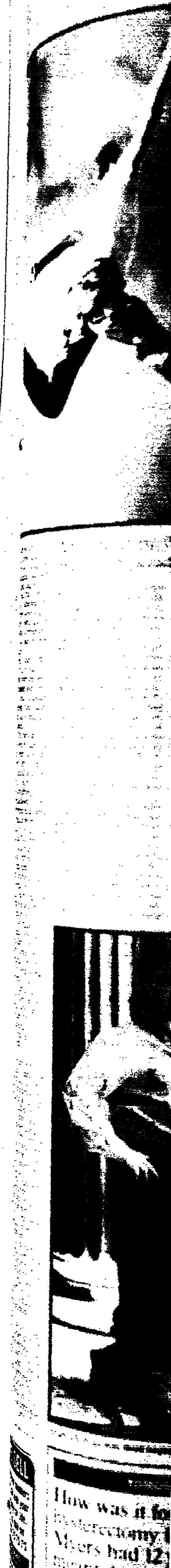
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yes,
yes,
yes!

About two years ago I got a new girlfriend. She was young and beautiful. I was very keen. We dated, and in time we went to bed. But in bed, I couldn't do it. I achieved erection — but then something inside me threw a switch and the moment I went to penetrate, I flopped. I was like an overcooked noodle.

At the time I didn't worry much. After all, it had happened before: over the years I'd had my tangles with brewers' droop and first-night nerves, like most men. Surely all I needed was to relax and all would be well.

It wasn't. The next time we tried to have sex, it happened again. The next time, the same. First-night nerves turned into second and third-night nerves, which swifly turned into something like a nervous breakdown. Every time my girlfriend and I went to bed, as I tried to penetrate, I was reminded of the last time that I had failed. The result: no penetration. I was in an anxiety loop. I was impotent because I was impotent.

This soon became a living, shrieking mental hell. I was 32. Was the rest of my life to be spent playing golf and trying not to think about girls? I felt unmanned, psychologically as well as physically. And this is the peculiar awfulness of impotence, which some people don't understand: it inflicts a deep psychic wound. A man who is impotent is not just "soft boy", the butt of bad sitcom humour. Poor old Roy from *EastEnders* who is impotent is not just denied the pleasure of intercourse, he is also infertile and anorgasmic. He is genetically pointless.

In my rising panic, I sought any escape. One easy route was to blame others, for example, my girlfriend. But her sexual willingness was equalled only by her nubility. It couldn't be anything to do with her. Could it? It couldn't. One terrible night I tried to do it with someone else: the same process unfurled. Arousal, anxiety, dysfunction, desolation.

Now I was truly stuck. With my ego self-destructing, I started reading around. Freud had little to offer, apart from the insight that "psychic impotence" — psychosomatic rather than mechanical impotence — was "perhaps the most common problem" he encountered as a psychoanalyst, and particularly seemed to affect men with "unusually strong libidos". The last comment was momentarily comforting, then disturbing. It merely reminded me of what I had lost.

My friends were sympathetic but equally unhelpful. Their advice ranged from "take your time" to "take zinc" to "take a holiday in Thailand". None of them seemed to appreciate the nature of my affliction: the vicious anxiety spiral. In my despair — and it was approaching despair by this time — I re-

After enduring the 'hell' of impotence, Sean Thomas tried Viagra — and found paradise. So why not, he says, allow all men the benefit?

sponded to one of those press adverts that offer help with male sexual problems. I rang the number and was given an appointment. The consultation took place in a pastel-coloured room just off Sloane Square. A woman of a certain age with a clipboard and too short a skirt, took down my date of birth, my medical history and the details of my problem. Quite helpfully, she said that what I was suffering from was called "spectatoring" and that it was very common; even Ernest Hemingway was a sufferer. I was being too self-critical and self-conscious of my performance with a desirable new girlfriend, and this causing myself to fail.

Having deftly diagnosed my problem, the ministrated therapist laid out her wares. There were several possible solutions. I could inject a substance called prostaglandin E1 directly into my penis. Or I could use a "rather cumbersome" suction pump. Or I could have an implant in my glans. Or... wincing, I interrupted. Wasn't there anything

that didn't involve appalling self-mutilation? The therapist started talking about "interactive" therapy, where I would be provided with a sexual partner and a counsellor and invited to have sex while being watched and advised. This sounded slightly more intriguing until the therapist unobtrusively told me the fee: about £1,500. £1,500? With a sigh I fled into the bustle of Chelsea, the insufferable bustle of beautiful-but-intouchable women and obviously-more-virtile-than-me men.

As it happened, within a few weeks of my consultation, my girlfriend and I unexpectedly solved my problem with the help of a bottle of whisky and a spot of massage. But that hasn't stopped me wondering whether the one thing that therapist wasn't able to offer at the time — namely Viagra — would have been the solution. Would I, could I, have been spared the whole nightmare by a simple pill? The only way to find out was to try. So I did: last week I went to Harley Street and returned with a

small, blue, diamond-shaped tablet neatly inscribed "Pfizer". I was keen to have a bash right away, my girlfriend less keen. She didn't like the experiment and a counsellor and invited to have sex while being watched and advised. This sounded slightly more intriguing until the therapist unobtrusively told me the fee: about £1,500. £1,500? With a sigh I fled into the bustle of Chelsea, the insufferable bustle of beautiful-but-intouchable women and obviously-more-virtile-than-me men.

These were good arguments. But I had a clincher: I only had one tablet. Carefully, she gave in. I popped the pill, bought my girlfriend a consolatory dinner (you are meant to wait an hour) and then we went to bed.

The result was at first disappointing. We had made love that morning (so as to siphon off any excess libido) but when we made love on Viagra that night, it all seemed pretty similar. My orgasm was slightly more intense, nothing more. I recognised some of the symptoms of amphetamine use: a slight buzz in the head, unworried garrulity. But sexually there was not much to gloat about. Wherefore all the fuss?

The next morning, however, all was different. The manufacturers say that Viagra lasts for between two and four hours, with a half-life of six hours. Whatever the technicalities, eight hours after taking the tablet I was a monster of desire. The damn thing wouldn't go down. We had sex in the bed, beside the bed, in front of the mirror, against the mirror. We had sex so much that my flatmate complained. And my orgasm was definitely intensified. It was shudderingly

Hours after taking it I was a monster of desire

good. And after we'd had sex, well, then I wanted to have more sex. Immediately. My pale-faced girlfriend understandably demurred and opted for a Danish pastry: I sat there and waited for my erection to go down, which it did after 20 minutes.

I go into this detail because I want to get the point across: I have no doubt that Viagra would have solved my problem — my former impotence — immediately. Just like that. All those weeks and months of worry, those nights of fear and loathing, would have been ended in an hour. And this is the same wonderful, miraculous pill that has been greeted by the British medical establishment as a harbinger of apocalypse, a menace to the British way of life, too expensive to prescribe on the NHS?

When you think about it, our reaction to Viagra has been very peculiar. Would a cure for cancer have had Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, publicly fretting about NHS funds, as Viagra did last month? Would a remedy for AIDS have had Frank Dobson, the Health Sec-

retary, hastily reassuring everyone that it would only be prescribed for "strictly clinical problems"? Surely not.

Two reasons for this odd reaction suggest themselves. The first is old-fashioned British Puritanism. The postwar generation of reliable, cheap contraceptives got much the same cold shoulder. There was a time when safe coils, proper caps and the Pill were only available to, and prescribed for, married women.

Is this the same underlying attitude that has greeted Viagra with such disapproval? Do some people simply not like the idea of all those men having a good time?

Or is it that some women don't like the idea of all those men having a good time? It is not hard to detect a feminist agenda behind this anti-Viagra agitation. I hardly think a

pill that cured female infertility would have half the country clamouring for it to be rationed. Nor would a pill that helped frigid women to achieve gratification. Yet there are estimated to be two million men in the UK suffering from impotence — much of it, like my own, not "strictly clinical" and therefore not eligible, according to Frank Dobson, for NHS help.

But whichever way you look at it, two million impotent men equals a huge well of despair that could be swiftly dried up by a simple pill.

So Viagra might cost us a billion pounds. So Viagra has the potential for abuse. So what? Can't the NHS budget for it, maybe even make room for it by removing less wonderful drugs from the available roster? If women are to be allowed abortions on demand, why shouldn't men have erections on demand?

• The author is a novelist and journalist.

Do new ads refresh our old parts?

Grace Bradberry on a decline in the art of advertising

Say what you like about Roland Barthes, but Post-Modernism really began in 1974, when the Heineken advert first appeared, and the British middle-classes were able to forget Pinter and fill the time between avocado pear and black forest gâteau with small-talk about TV commercials.

You might think that the conversations about adverts are the signal to call a cab, but the sad truth is that adverts have a nasty way of lodging in our brains like bits of peanut between teeth.

The insidious way in which catchphrases inveigle their way into our heads is one of the worst irritations of the multi-media age. George Orwell described advertising as "the rattling of a stick inside a swill bucket", and if you have ever sat in a traffic jam and thought "That'll be the Dae-woo" then you'll know what he meant. The most compelling calls to stuff our snouts in the consumer trough tend to grate. The ones we would most like to show to the door — Bruce Forsyth banging his hammer in the Court's sale, Jonathan Ross and his wretched "stuffed-crust pizza" — you remember them far longer than that nice Motorola ad with the flying mobile phones.

As clichés go, the Heineken partridge was a pearl among swine, bringing to a close a series of adverts that were better than most of the sitcoms that they interrupted. Remember Wordsworth "walking about a bit on my own" before being inspired to write "I wandered lonely as a cloud"? Or the pastiche on *Pygmalion* in which two South Londoners coached a Home Counties girl in the way to pronounce "the water in Majorca"? Never again will we savour such delights, because the admen

The ad for Heineken was a pearl among swine

but we just don't seem able to manufacture them like we used to.

Stefano Hatfield, the editor of *Campaign*, says this is largely due to the cost of TV airtime and the fragmentation of TV audiences. "In the 1970s you could put out an advert during *Coronation Street* and reach 20 million people. The most memorable slogans and jingles were from that period. As the commercial TV audience fragments you have to chase that viewer around and it becomes more expensive. The Renault Clio adverts, for example, have taken seven years, spending the same amount of money every year."

Instead of jingles and slogans, advertisers have turned to celebrities for a more immediate fix. The sight of their happy faces as they enjoy yet more of the fruits of the retail boom is loathsome indeed.



Sean Thomas was most impressed after sampling Viagra

Time for the PC that has Everything!

Advertisement for a PC system. Features listed: 128MB RAM, 300MB Hard Disk, 8.4" Monitor, 56k Modem. Price: £969 plus VAT. Includes PC-TV with Teletext, VideoPhone Receiver, and a massive software bundle.

Advertisement for the 300M-II Family PC. Features listed: 300MHz Pentium processor, 128MB RAM, 6.4GB hard disk, 8MB voice modem, PC-TV system, 512K pipeline burst cache, 512MB CD-ROM, 5M Gated Speech Recognition, VideoPhone Receiver, 3D waveable sound, Teletext and video capture, 4MB advanced graphics using system RAM, 15" SVGA colour screen (17" optional), Microsoft Windows 95, FREE Epson 300 colour printer worth £129, FREE A4 flatbed scanner worth £119, FREE Lotus SmartSuite 97, GSP suite and Educational software.

Advertisement for a printer and scanner. Features listed: FREE Printer (Epson Stylus 300 colour inkjet printer with 720dpi print), FREE Scanner (Colour A4 flatbed scanner worth £119), FREE Software (Includes Lotus SmartSuite 97).

Advertisement for TIME magazine. Features listed: NO Deposit, NO Payments, NO Interest. Includes a list of featured authors and a large phone number: 0800 771107.

Advertisement for a telephone number service. Text: WE SELL telephone numbers that stay with your company for life. Call us now on 07000 70 70 70. PERSONAL NUMBER.

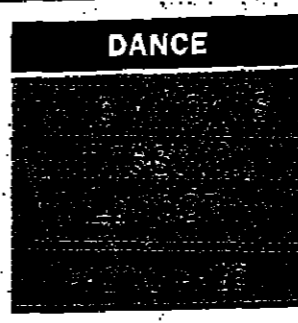
Advertisement for Viagra. Text: TOMORROW How was it for her? The hysterectomy Bonnie Myers had 12 years ago meant the end of her sexual fulfilment. Then she tried Viagra.

PEED SERIES



THEATRE
Going panto at the Globe?

THE TIMES ARTS



Send out the clowns at the Globe

THEATRE: Apple-throwing and ad-libbing — has the 'authentic' audience participation at Shakespeare's Globe gone too far? Benedict Nightingale is worried

The other day a foreign student was walking into the replica of Shakespeare's wooden O on Bankside when she was grabbed by a bizarrely dressed man. He was Marcello Magni, the Italian clown who was about to play Launcelot Gobbo in *The Merchant of Venice*, but she did not know that. Why was this tiny, frenetic lunatic seizing people's sandwiches, pouring water over them, and behaving in ways that in nice sedate countries would have people phoning the police and asking for the straitjacket squad? The girl freaked out, and had to be taken by ambulance to hospital.

new productions. Dekker's *Honest Whore* and Middleton's *Mad World, My Masters*, it is time to offer him a friendly warning. If things continue the way they are going, the artistic director had better have several ambulances on standby, just to take serious playgoers to a place where the

'The house style tends to push even Shakespeare towards panto'

blood-pressure can be professionally reduced. Let's instantly agree that the Globe, now in its second full year, is in many respects proving a great success. There have been enjoyable productions, such as the *As You Like It* still in the rep, and good performances, not least from Rylance himself as a sly yet forlorn Proteus in *Two Gentle*

men of Verona and a hilariously comby, smug cuckold in Middleton's *Chaste Maid in Cheapside*. But how does he feel when he stands in the Doge's court as Bassanio in the current *Merchant of Venice*, and hears Shylock booted and his forced conversion to Christianity received with the same cheers that have apparently sometimes greeted the grossly anti-Semitic Gratiano? Well, maybe there was the same reaction back at the time when Dr Lopez, Jewish physician to the Queen, was being tortured to death for allegedly plotting against her.

From the start, Rylance has made it clear that he wishes his groundlings to feel as free as their Elizabethan predecessors to move about, heckle, even chuck orange peel at the stage. He can also reasonably point to the configuration of the Globe, which thrusts actors out deep into the audience and, unlike today's proscenium-arch playhouses, forces them to acknowledge the spectators' existence even at intimate moments. So why not make an aesthetic virtue of the artistic necessity? Some such reasoning doubtless lies behind the exercises in sharing now to be found at the Globe. In *As You Like It*, apples are thrown into the audience and returned with interest. The wrestling match between Orlando and Charles doesn't merely spill into the pit, but ranges around it, sending groundlings spinning as fall follows fall. There are hisses for wicked Duke Frederick and bad Oliver, and loud spoof sighs for poor, rejected Silvius. Meanwhile Magni continues to run spectacularly amok in *The Merchant*, doing horse impressions, miming death-throes and I don't know what.



Globe artistic director Mark Rylance (centre, as Bassanio) stands accused of reducing the intricacies of *The Merchant of Venice* to the level of a football game

Last year it was much the same. The audience made its feelings about the Agincourt campaign very evident. The dastardly Gauls were booed and even Henry V's decision to kill his prisoners cheered. If a French couple had come to the Globe via the provocatively named Waterloo, they would have concluded their nation was spiritually at war with England, and gone straight back to Paris. That way, they would at least have avoided the excesses of *Chaste Maid*, in which Elizabethan Londoners were ad-libbing about Peter Mandelson and chasing one another round the Globe's balconies and almost up to its thatched roof.

One critic felt that the morally intricate hostilities between the Jewish and Christian factions in *The Merchant* had been reduced to the level of "an Arsenal-Tottenham football day", and several of us have talked ominously of a house-style that tends to push even Shakespeare towards melodrama or panto. An audience which jeered lingo or yelled "Look out, he's lying" to his victim would doubtless be an involved audience: but

they would be unlikely to end up with a very searching, subtle Othello. Maybe the reason the Jacobean rated Shakespeare no higher than his contemporaries is that the plays they saw were a lot more crudely staged, performed and received than is the case today. And here we come to the nub of the problem. Should the authenticity the late, great Sam Wanamaker wanted at the Globe really extend from the building to the bond between actors and audience? Indeed, how can it do so? These days the groundlings are not the smelly, seething mix of apprentices, workmen, layabouts, rakes, prostitutes and pickpockets that enraged the Elizabethan puritans, but

a mainly middle-class blend of students, backpackers, Japanese tourists, American professors and people unwilling or unable to get a £15 or £20 seat. The result is self-consciousness, phoney role-playing and confusion. When David Rintoul's Duke Frederick points menacingly at his hecklers, or John McEnery's Jacques hurls another apple out at the audience, they are provoking us in ways that Shakespeare's company would surely have found artificial, absurd, even dangerous. Meanwhile the Globe's ushers, conscious of a fault of modern fire-regulations, are busy warning off those groundlings who block the exits by perching on the stairs. For all its belief in freedom, there is a lot of control at the Globe. At

times it verges on infantilism. The groundlings in particular are being simultaneously asked to pretend they are Elizabethans and encouraged to behave as if Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf were on-stage. So what will happen when the Globe, which has so far confined itself to comedy, history and the odd Jacobean thunderer, finally tackles one of the great tragedies? Let's hope patterns of behaviour at the theatre are not yet fixed. Let's hope the major directors and actors who have yet to test their talents there will succeed in creating an emotional intensity which will banish self-indulgent silliness. The roguish Lear, the romping Macbeth are too awful to contemplate.

X

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Clever treatment for pain

Radha Bharadwaj's play has a short but glamorous past. Originally conceived for screen and turned into a film in 1991, it starred Madeleine Stowe as a children's author interrogated by Alan Rickman's sadistic government official about the political content of her books. It rapidly fizzled into obscurity, deemed too theatrical for good box office. The script may have lost its cinematic glamour in the transfer to stage, but it seems to have found a natural home, not least because black box fringe theatres in South London are uncannily suited to torture chamber plays.

Alison Baker plays the stivery, pasty young writer who is dragged from her bed in the middle of the night to a spartan interrogation room decorated with the usual tools of the trade: banered desk, anglepoise lamp, blindfolds and meat hooks dangling from chains. Accusing her of subliminally indoctrinating young children with her new book *Close Land*, our official sets about extracting a confession. There is a predictability about this seemingly one-sided power struggle between brutiser and victim that not even the most sophisticated dramas could hurdle without tripping itself on the obvious. Sure enough, Julian England's slippery, shmy-suited official soon dispenses with the there-might-be-some-mistake niceties and clips into his arsenal of electric toys and brainwashing tapes.

England is like an amiable dentist who practises a little gratuitous sadism at weekends. "I don't like this you know, it's just a job," he says almost whimsically. It's this motiveless creepy sadism and the victim's unexpected resilience that sustain the tension for most of Michael Cowie's production. For long stretches it doesn't seem enough. Baker's writer is clearly not

a subversive. Her story, about a child who imagines herself whisked away to exotic places when she is daily locked into a closet by her mother, seems beyond any sort of radical agenda. In fact by not giving the play any political context at all apart from an obviously neurotic government, this battle of wills is strangely disorientating. The brute mechanics of breaking someone's body to win their mind would have limited theatrical appeal were it not for the chilling performances that belie the actors' young years. It is only when the torture has reached the point of no return that we are suddenly fed a sinister truth that throws a ghastly light on the relationship of torturer and tortured. It is the one real cinematic piece of manipulation in the play. But ironically, it is here that you also discover how cleverly the ground has been softened by Cowie's production. Not for the faint-hearted.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Fine fiction in cracking form

The entire corpus of existing literature should be regarded as a limbo from which discerning authors could draw their characters as required, creating only when they failed to find a suitable existing puppet. Flann O'Brien advised in his ill-mannered, attention deficit disorder-afflicted masterpiece, *At Swim Two Birds*. True to his creed, O'Brien gathered into his 1939 novel everything from stock figures of ancient Celtic myth, to drunken students, cowboys and spivish racing tipsters for his tale of a young writer who can never quite silence the cacophonous voices of his literary antecedents.

The task in Alex Johnston's new adaptation of the book has been to get this literary equivalent of a Central Casting works out of the page and on to the stage without crushing the precarious lattice of the original's narrative. The surprising thing, given the

complexity of the task of turning this damburst of wilful diversion into one night's theatre, is the parache with which Johnston and the director, Jimmy Fay, have achieved this task. The captivating production moves confidently between mythological hallucination, idle pub banter and penny dreadful. Fay has found an inspired and intelligent fit between all the show's constituent parts. Johnston's cur-and-paste text mirrors O'Brien's stories-with-

in-stories structure with a nest of plays within plays, and even plays within plays within plays. The theme is taken up by Johanna Connor's mobile peep show design, which offers stages within stages, while an extended "silent movie" section where the stage turns briefly into a cinema (admittedly an idea rather blatantly snatched from Annie Ryan's recent *Baby Jane*) extends the Russian doll theme. For all the craftiness of Fay's staging *At Swim Two Birds* is at heart a simple celebration of storytelling that leans heavily on its storytellers. Fay's direction is assured enough to make this possible, while still gently nudging the action towards its dramatic conclusion.

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EXPECTED

A Church that is a world apart

Ruth Gledhill on a continental fault-line dividing Anglicans

Today marks the start of a week that could either make or break the Anglican Church. During the past fortnight, the 750 archbishops, bishops and their suffragans from 38 provinces in the worldwide Church have been meeting in secret sessions at Kent University, Canterbury, at the 13th Lambeth Conference.

In spite of its Augustinian associations, a place less conducive architecturally to spiritual reflection can scarcely be imagined. It is all too easy there to envisage the Church ending up like so many humps of inarticulate, immovable concrete, separated from each other and also from the world, gradually eroded from human consciousness by the secular winds of change.

The roots of the Anglican Communion lie in the British Empire and the Commonwealth. There are at the conference three Lutheran bishops from Scandinavia, members of the conference for the first time. But otherwise, the European perspective is simply not on the agenda of the Anglican Church, whose leaders are instead gazing with increasing anxiety towards the thriving Churches of Africa and Asia. It is a fault-line between developed and developing world that could undermine the foundations of Anglicanism.

are angry that Western Anglicans seem determined to promote what they regard as an unorthodox line on homosexuality, and frightened that the West's approach to Islam appears to them as one of appeasement.

One African bishop told me last week: "You came over to our country 150 years ago and gave us the Bible. We believed it. Now you are telling us the Bible is not true. Christians come to me and say: 'My Muslim brother has a priest who tells him to do this because it is in the Koran. He does what his priest says. Father, what do you say? What can I say? He has just read about an American or Anglican bishop saying this or that in the Bible is not true, that homosexuality is not a sin, that the Resurrection did not happen!'"

Resolutions on both these crucial issues, Islam and homosexuality, will come before the conference this week. The atmosphere of mutual distrust has been further poisoned by the liberal Episcopalian Bishop Jack Spang's description of his African brethren as "uneducated" and "superstitious". The open debate that is necessary to heal wounds between both sides has been hampered by the control and secrecy surrounding the sessions as they have met for the past two weeks.

"You gave us the Bible, and now you say it isn't true"

In spite of attempts by the Church's spin-doctors to downplay them, the difficulties seem more serious even than those surrounding women's ordination. Though hundreds of clergy opposed women priests and parishes have split from the Anglican Communion as a result, even that debate did not set entire continents against each other. It is highly tempting to speak in terms of a pending schism, especially when the Church of England's chief spin-doctor, the Rev Bill Beaver, is frequently heard to say, in faintly hysterical terms, to the journalists here: "Listen to me: there is no schism!"

However, to conclude that schism is inevitable is to underestimate a man who has been consistently underestimated. The fact is that the Africans and Asians are unlikely to leave the Anglican communion while George Carey is its *primus inter pares*, because they truly believe him to be "one of us". They regard the Archbishop of Canterbury as their leader in resisting the tide of liberalism which they say is destroying the Church in the West. He is their fifth column in their march against secularism.

This is not to say that Dr Carey takes a literalist approach to the Bible. He does not. But he has an evangelical approach greatly trusted by the Church's conservative and traditional wings. Dr Carey is certain that the Church will emerge at the end of this week with both credibility and structure intact. Only God knows whether he is right.

The future of the United Kingdom rests on the struggle between Gordon Brown and Alex Salmond

Cain and Abel fight for Scotland's soul

Two Scotsmen, both in their middle forties, will decide the future of the United Kingdom. One of them is Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, MP for Dunfermline East since 1983, one-time leader in politics. The other is Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, Member for Banff and Buchan since 1987, one-time energy economist with the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The two men have wholly incompatible ambitions. Gordon Brown's ambition is to succeed Tony Blair as Prime Minister, and carry to completion a more Scottish and more European version of the new Labour project. Alex Salmond's ambition is to become the first Prime Minister of an independent Scotland, early in the next century. Neither can achieve his ambition without defeating the ambitions of the other; neither can achieve his ambition without displacing Tony Blair.

The battleground is Scotland; the protagonists are Scottish. Apart from the Prime Minister himself, those of us who live in England or Wales can have little influence on the outcome. If the SNP wins the first election for the Scottish parliament on May 6 next year, it is highly probable that it will lead to Scottish separation from the dissolution of the 1707 Act of Union, within a few years. Current opinion polls all put the SNP in the lead; one of the most recent puts it 14 points ahead. The polls are volatile: one says that 72 per cent

of Scottish electors think Scotland will reach independence within 15 years. Inevitability is a powerful argument.

The two men are closely matched. Gordon Brown has the gloomy version of the Scottish temperament; though pleasant to meet, he seems solitary, anxious and scared. Alex Salmond is the cheerful Scot, he shares the Scottish temperament of James Boswell, rather than that of John Knox or Lord Reith. He is an easy man in company, humorous, relaxed, amiable. Where Gordon Brown is dour, Alex Salmond is droll. In democratic politics that is an advantage.

Unexpectedly, since it is Gordon Brown who is the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it is Alex Salmond who thinks most like an economist. That was his profession, by which he earned his living as a young man. Both men have serious intellectual abilities; the battle will not be fought at a superficial level. Both take a strategic view of politics. Gordon Brown has been the intellectual force behind New Labour; Alex Salmond sees the cause of Scottish independence in historic terms; he is not just concerned with winning Scotland's independence, but with making independence a success.

William Rees-Mogg

Both men are "good Europeans"; Gordon Brown wants to take Britain into the single currency, and perhaps has some contempt for Tony Blair's more cautious approach. Alex Salmond's concept of Scottish independence is based on Scotland becoming one of the smaller countries of the European Union, like Ireland, Portugal or Denmark. Both men are Scottish social democrats; the SNP, under Alex Salmond's leadership, will always be a social democratic party. Both are men of the Centre Left, not of the Left: they are Cain and Abel.

The SNP's lead in the polls for next May's election threatens the whole future of the Government. Scotland has already come to see Labour government as London government. The anti-English feelings raised by 18 years of distant Tory rule are already transferring themselves to the Blair administration. The SNP argues that Scotland would be more prosperous, as an independent nation. It is making this argument at a time when manufacturing industry is moving into recession throughout the United Kingdom. It points to Ireland as an example of the growth that can be created by independent policies inside Europe. Labour is replying with tax scares, using an old Tory tactic against the SNP.

One of the SNP's main election themes will be that Scotland can again become an enterprise economy, as it was in the 19th century. Nationalists believe this can be based on the traditional Scottish business virtues of pioneering initiative combined with thrifty management. In Fleet Street, it was extraordinary how many leading entrepreneurs of the 20th century came from families which left Scotland in the 18th or 19th century, went to Canada or Australia, and came back to the proprietorships of London newspapers. The Scottish nationalists want to revive these entrepreneurial energies.

To be successful, an independent Scotland would need to be one of the magnets for investment inside the European Union. That dictates a number of policies. An independent Scotland would have to be friendly to business, including English business. The Irish example of low corporate taxes is likely to be followed in the SNP manifesto. For a small country there is a huge leverage in any extra share of European investment. Scotland has therefore to seek good business relations with England, her largest business partner; that means Scottish corporate taxes ought to be below the English.

The SNP wants to avoid a "messy divorce", for good Scottish reasons. Alex Salmond lived through the brilliant success of Tony Blair's campaign before 1997. He saw how the new Labour propaganda took the threat out of the Labour Party. It seems likely that he wants to remove the outstanding fears of Scottish independence, both from Scottish voters and from English businessmen. The ideal argument for

Scottish nationalism is that separation would be good for Scotland and England. Instead of a "messy divorce", there should be happy independence for both nations.

The Labour Party pushed devolution through the general election and through Parliament on the argument that it was an alternative to independence. The Conservatives argued that devolution would lead to separation, perhaps gradually but perhaps quite rapidly. If the SNP wins the first election for the Scottish parliament, the process of independence will accelerate. Yet the Labour Party is in a weak position to win that election.

Labour in Scotland is feuding, embittered and demoralised. Old Labour is accused of the corrupt management of local government, but does represent a real urban culture; it has its principles. New Labour, though manipulative, is more innocent of corruption, but is almost rootless. The process of selecting candidates under a list system, with gender equality, has alienated those rejected after a lifetime of service to the Labour Party. Many younger Labour supporters already believe independence is inevitable.

Gordon Brown is the real leader of Scottish Labour; the campaign will depend ultimately on him, not on the Anglicised Tony Blair. Alex Salmond is the leader of the SNP. The only question is which man is the captain of the *Titanic*, and which the captain of the iceberg?

Prisoners of conscience

Frank Field's spectre will remain over welfare, says Peter Riddell



The martyrdom of St Frank would be an ideal subject for one of those moral parable paintings which the Victorians so liked. I can just see it on the walls of the Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight, a few minutes down the road from Mr Field's Birkenhead constituency — the eponymous hero confronted by a sinister Gordon Brown in full armour with a Lady Mabeth looking like Harriet Harman in the background.

Alas, that image, tempting as it is for Tory politicians and papers, will not do. Nor will the alternative, so assiduously peddled by Downing Street this weekend, of Mr Field as an arrogant bumbler out of his depth in the real world of politics.

In reality, there has been a clash not just of personalities but also of distinct policies. And last week's reshuffle represented not the abandonment of a crusade for reform under Mr Field, but rather an attempt to revive reform under a new team. Tony Blair is himself partly to blame, both for raising expectations about what welfare reform could achieve and for appointing the inherently combustible duo of Harman and Field.

The debate was also prejudged from the start by the Chancellor's determination to press on with his own welfare package based on the principle of means-testing, with the New Deal proposals for the unemployed and the working families tax credit.

Mr Field has attacked means-testing as morally corrosive because it undermines incentives to work and to save and increases welfare dependency. (The Tories argue that such means-testing inevitably affects those further up the income scale.) By contrast, Mr Field wants to increase personal responsibility and self-reliance

via universal benefits and the restoration of the contributory principle. However, this would cost a lot of money, since it involves higher benefits, and therefore higher contributions/taxes paid by the better-off.

The social insurance approach has been rejected by Mr Brown, as he makes abundantly clear in his interview with *The Times* this morning. "I am not going to be a tax-and-spend Chancellor — no matter how persuasive the arguments about the desirability of particular changes." The Treasury argues that Mr Field anyway never produced a workable plan.

In these debates, Mr Field has been more respected by his political opponents than his supposed allies. While he anticipated many of the arguments of new Labour, he has never

been a Blairite, or a Brownite. He is too much of a loner.

Mr Field has admitted that one of the challenges of becoming a minister was to answer the charge about not being a team player. But even if this weekend's anonymous attacks about his record are ignored, less committed Whitehall observers question whether Mr Field was ever really cut out to be a minister, as opposed to a thinker and moralist — though he has never allowed a proper chance to show that he could be.

These differences meant that meetings of the Cabinet's welfare committee have been unproductive, with a brooding Mr Field and a waffley and increasingly prickly Ms Harman. A

myriad of ideas have been floated from the Treasury, from Mr Field, and from the Downing Street policy unit. The welfare Green Paper in March highlighted the lack of progress, since it was long on principles, but short of specific proposals.

John Denham has been working for some time on a second, or stakeholder, pension on top of the low basic state pension. But there has been no clear political direction from the top.

Hence, Mr Blair's decision to replace the Harman-Field team at Social Security with Alistair Darling and Mr Denham as number two. They are expected to deliver reform. Their priority is pensions.

The Government is trying to fulfil two related aims — encouraging those who can to save as much as possible while they are working (as many do via occupational pensions) and increasing resources available for those who cannot save because they are unemployed or their incomes are too low or erratic.

Ministers have been dancing for some time round the idea of compulsion and have been worried that this will be depicted as another form of taxation. Mr Field has argued that, without compulsion, the promise of a means-tested guaranteed income for pensioners will reduce the incentive to save. The likelihood is that people not already in approved occupational schemes will be compelled to save in private top-schemes, with scope for flexible contributions.

Otherwise, Mr Darling is likely to follow the policy adopted by Peter Lilley of tightening access to sickness and disability benefits by requiring new eligibility tests rather than cutting the cash amounts. Overall, however, it is naive to expect dramatic savings. The best that can be hoped for is a continuation of the slower overall growth in social security spending that we have seen in recent years.

Nonetheless, a major change is occurring in the scope of the welfare state, away from redistribution to targeting and regulation. The aim is to help people into work and to provide a minimum income for those who cannot work.

At the same time, the middle-class welfare state is being challenged — by introducing student tuition fees, cutting tax breaks for pension funds, gradually phasing out mortgage tax relief, and ending universal child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds (with the probable taxing of all child benefit, at least for higher-rate payers).

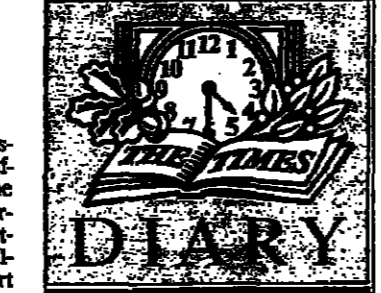
That is why the reprimand over the departure of Mr Field are not about reform versus the status quo. Rather, they are about alternative models of reform — and the onus now is on Mr Darling to show that his proposals will not only provide increased security but will also break the culture of welfare dependency.

Mr Field may have failed in his ambition to be the architect of welfare reform. But he will remain its conscience.

The fast lane

ONE PERSON who will be spared the normal gridlock on weekend escape routes to the countryside is Baroness Hayman, who, until the reshuffle, beavered away as a Roads Minister. Amid the cull of programmes, the Ministry of Transport gave the green light to work on the London-Norwich route — happily, the path the baroness takes to her new country cottage. The Haymans like to weekend in Merton, a neat little Norfolk village, just off the A11. The review, Hayman's last contribution to transport policy before her move to Health, urges "the improvement of access to more remote areas of the region" by dualising the A11 "from Fiveways to Thetford" — a stretch which lies along the fastest route from London to her cottage. The RAC calculates that the proposed work, which the review says is to be "taken forward without delay, subject to full appraisal", will "halve journey time" on that stretch of the route.

It is ridiculous to suggest that any road travelled on by a minister should be taken out of the review," protests the baroness. "I have done nothing improper." Indeed, I welcome any improvement to that stretch: an ill-timed puncture one New Year's Eve forced me to hitch a ride, clad in smart black tie, on the back of a passing tractor.



ten years as leader of the Liberal Democrats, Paddy's rugged features have earned their place in the pantheon. Flattered and excited, he has been canvassing modern artists to find a suitable portrait. Not so fast: Paddy must hold his pose, as Blair, having agreed to sit, is being tardy about arranging a brush with the canvas. "We can hardly let Ashdown in before we unveil the Prime Minister," says a black beret at the NPG. "The PM is causing a bit of a logjam." Surely Tony's Tuscan idyll would be the ideal place to push those logs.

Step forward Vicky Lee, Mohamed Al Fayed's latest illustrious recruit. Vicky (right) was plastered across the smaller prints after "telling all" about a night with David Goliath, the Tottenham footballer and shampoo analyst. She is being lined up as a "roving sports reporter" for Al Fayed's Liberty Radio. Don't rove too near me.

In the know
REPORTS that Ann Taylor, the new Chief Whip, was "worried sick" about being sacked in the reshuffle seem ill-informed. Taylor says she knew about her appointment in advance. "I came down on Sunday and spent most of the afternoon and evening with Tony," she confides. "He'd more or less made up his mind about the Cabinet jobs, but we discussed some of the junior posts." She celebrated over a pizza with her 14-year-old daughter, Isabel. "I told her not to tell anyone. Not even her Dad".



Pooh Corner

AS members of the Garrick Club await an extraordinary general meeting next week to determine what to do with the Winnie the Pooh windfall from Walt Disney for its quarter share of A.A. Milne's estate, the overwhelming majority disdain an RAC-style share-out of the £40 million.

That was why eminent journalist Alexander Chancellor had a frosty reception last week when he turned up for lunch after writing in *The Daily Telegraph* criticising a chairman's letter stating that the club was setting up a charitable trust, rather than opting for a share-out supposedly of up to £39,000 each.

Chancellor decided not to stay for lunch after being told that at least £15 million was needed for renovation and any share-out would be subject to tax. "His article was riddled with errors and he breached club confidentiality," muttered one senior member. "His knuckles will be rapped."



ROBERT REDFORD, the de-crowned King of Hollywood, thinks he is descended from a more noble line of monarchs. Redford, whose father worked as an Edinburgh milkman before emigrating in 1936, claims he has the blood of the Stewart kings coursing through his veins. The Scottish Tartans Society dismisses this as "foolish".

The House of Stewart, founded by Robert II in 1371 and later joined with the House of Stuart, has an embattled history, with Charles I (pictured) losing his head and James II being rudely de-



thrown in 1688. It is just the sort of heritage that Redford would want to draw on. The Tartans Society is less sure. "The Redfords are descended from the Innes clan," insists one sportswear-wielder. "I can't see how Redford and Stewart get together. That rings danger bells around here because most people think they're going to wear the Royal Stewart."

Perhaps Redford feels a kinship with the ousted James II. As Robert Burns wrote of the Stewart: "unroof'd their palace stands; Their sceptre fall'n to other hands."

A names double, Caribbean style. A.D. Mitchell tells of his old home in Trinidad, (called Why



BUCCANEERING BROWN

A Chancellor who wants to see risk better rewarded

After seeing his allies scattered by the reshuffle, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has hit the ground spinning. In the past week, Gordon Brown has given three lengthy interviews designed to underline his continuing dominance of this Government's policy agenda. In the most substantial of them so far, he has outlined to Peter Riddell and Philip Webster his ambitions for this autumn's Budget and beyond. The Chancellor who has made Prudence his handmaiden now seeks to embrace Lady Luck.

Mr Brown wants to reward those who make their own good fortune by taking a chance. He hopes enterprising risk-takers will be the main beneficiaries of future tax and capital market reforms. Under Margaret Thatcher it was the Department of Trade and Industry which was styled the Department for Enterprise. On the basis of his words this morning, Mr Brown clearly wants that mantle for the Treasury.

The comparative failure of British industry to innovate and improve productivity has been a consistent theme of the Chancellor's. He has invited Britain's bosses to reflect on the nation's inability to match US and European levels of productivity, while also thinking aloud on the failure of competition policy to give the British consumer a better deal.

The most productive policy for business, as Ireland has found, is a tax regime which leaves as much as possible in the pocket of the investor. The harmonisation of tax rates, which other EU nations are pushing as a necessary accompaniment to economic and monetary union, is of greater concern than any existing impediment to investment.

Re-engineering the tax system to reward risk is wholly desirable. But fine-tuning taxes to privilege one form of economic activity over another is always, itself, a risk. It can be construed as picking winners by other means. The best tax reform is the lowering of taxes all round, leaving private individuals to direct wealth and energy

where they discern the greatest rewards. The Chancellor is at pains, especially when discussing welfare reform, to stress that he is not a "tax and spend" throwback. But the level of expenditure he authorised in his Comprehensive Spending Review, and the limited portion dedicated to debt repayment, limits his capacity to cut taxes in the future.

Whatever the criticisms which may, legitimately, be directed at the Chancellor it must be acknowledged that his emphasis on enterprise, and his crusade to improve productivity, only underline how difficult it is to pigeonhole a mercurial minister. His rhetoric on competition is deeply felt and authentically liberal. Mr Brown is, in spirit, the consumer's friend and the scourge of corporate complacency. He deserves constructively critical support in his fight against business's bureaucrats and his wish better to champion business's buccaneers.

But not all of the Chancellor's views chime with his aspiration to make Britain a buccaneering nation. His analysis of Britain's history suggests there are potential contradictions in his stance. In his developing rhetoric of "Britishness" the Chancellor is attempting an ambitious synthesis of the values which animate new Labour, a defence of the Union against nationalism, and a case for European integration in the national interest. The Chancellor is seeking to reclaim Britishness from those he believes defined it too narrowly in the Eighties as a freebooting identity, in the spirit of Elizabethan privateers and Georgian adventurers.

Mr Brown can build an impressive case, but it runs counter to those strains in the national character which nurture the spirit of enterprise and risk he seeks to encourage. The Chancellor is, however, certainly right in recognising that any argument over Britain's future in Europe cannot be conducted purely on the dusty plains of economics. The debate has a long way to go, but Mr Brown should be applauded for taking the risk to initiate it.

A PEOPLE BETRAYED

Cambodia's pain is not at an end

The people have spoken. On July 26, 90 per cent of the electorate went to the polls in Cambodia's second general election. Preliminary results suggest that the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) — led by Hun Sen, the Second Prime Minister — has since last July *de facto* the only one — has won the greatest number of seats but not enough to rule out the possibility of a coalition. Without even waiting for the counting to end, the UN-co-ordinated joint international observer group pronounced the elections "free and fair". Demands for a recount by Opposition leaders Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Mr Sam Rainsy reflect discomfiture at the strength of the CPP vote as much as they indicate knowledge of widespread fraud.

Though the Opposition allegations have yet to be proven, the CPP dominated the election machinery and claimed results close to its pre-poll predictions. But no matter how clean Mr Hun Sen's electoral hands prove to be, how honest the polling or how inviolate the ballot-boxes, no election conducted in the context of Cambodia's recent political history can be genuinely free and fair.

Mr Hun Sen lost the 1993 UN-supervised elections to Prince Ranariddh's Funcinpec. He refused to give up power. Civil war was avoided by making him Second Prime Minister to Prince Ranariddh. For the next four years, Funcinpec and the CPP wooed the Khmer Rouge for support in the 1998, winner-takes-all, election. Funcinpec success with the Khmer Rouge led Mr Hun Sen to depose Prince Ranariddh in a bloody coup last July; opposition officials were summarily executed. Driven into exile, Prince

Ranariddh was only allowed to return, and campaign this year, once convicted of Mr Hun Sen's trumped-up charges of treason. But the lead-up to the election saw the Opposition denied free access to the media and its activists intimidated and murdered.

The international community gave its tacit approval. It brokered the deal which authorised Mr Hun Sen's version of the coup in return for a contested election, thus legitimising 100 extra-judicial executions. In saying the elections should go ahead, even though its intimidation and media access conditions had not been met, and issuing so precipitate a judgment of the electoral process, the international community has also made clear that any election will do.

Whatever happens, Mr Hun Sen is likely to win out. By law, a government needs the approval of two thirds of parliament, thus guaranteeing a coalition. Yet Mr Hun Sen will only accept a deal where the powerful ministries are in CPP hands. If the coalition he proposes is not accepted, Mr Hun Sen has made it clear that he is ready to set aside the constitution and rule alone.

Perhaps unconsciously, the international community appears to have made a tacit bargain with Mr Hun Sen: as long as he holds elections, he is free to manipulate them. It is likely that Cambodia, desperate for stability and aware that Mr Hun Sen's desire to hold on to power is greater than anyone else's readiness to break it, voted for him anyway. The irony is that by undermining the process, Mr Hun Sen may have denied himself a legitimate victory. The result is that the Cambodian people have once more been betrayed.

TIME TO TELL ALL

Clinton needs to make a televised confession

Few American political candidates have been more efficient on television than Bill Clinton. He made the most of presidential debates with George Bush, Ross Perot and Bob Dole. The debate that now matters is raging within the White House. The President's political advisers are urging him to schedule a television address and explain what exactly was his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Mr Clinton's legal team are telling him to maintain his silence. The President is both a lawyer and a politician, the world's second and third oldest professions. The time has come for him to choose between them.

Television has been the natural medium for American politicians to unburden their souls unto a nation. Richard Nixon's televised reply to seize allegations in 1952 saved his career. Admittedly his declarations 20 years later that there was no "whitewash in the White House" and "I am not a crook" were not quite so successful. It is hard to imagine what could save a President implicated in the cover-up of a burglary. If President Kennedy could use the airwaves to acknowledge responsibility for the Bay of Pigs and President Carter did the same after the botched attempt to rescue hostages in Iran, President Clinton must be able to analyse his own libido.

There are doubtless some traditionalists who would regard this as rather undignified but the President has already accepted the need to use television as a public confession

box. He, or rather more accurately his wife, designed an interview on 60 Minutes to deal with another sexual allegation six years ago. He is also an acknowledged master of this particular media art form. When Mr Clinton tells Americans that he "feels their pain", most of them enjoy it so much that they forget that he caused their hardship in the first place.

There are inevitable risks that would come with such an appearance. Even Mike McCurry, the President's own press secretary, has conceded that Mr Clinton's relationship with his former intern was probably "complicated". An admission of even a passing intimate liaison would stand at odds with the President's forthright declaration in January that he had "not had sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky". He would, in effect, be pleading guilty to both legal and political perjury.

The anxiety of his attorneys is entirely understandable. However, Mr Clinton will have to make a choice between the truth and further floundering when he answers question in front of the grand jury. Whatever that testimony is will inevitably seep out into the public domain. The real issue in "Zippergate" is not sex or even lies but obstruction of justice. If the President has not tried to impede the law, then an honest admission of his private weaknesses will not hurt him. If he has conspired to block the truth then he should use the airtime for an entirely different speech.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Brown's control of the economy

From Mr S. H. White

Sir, Professor Robin Marris's perceptive article (Business Analysis, July 31) concerning the all-too-obvious misreading of figures on the economy by the Treasury and the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee inevitably concludes by asking why new Labour are "such chronic macro pessimists".

May I suggest that there is almost certainly a hidden agenda. By forcing the Bank to target an inflation rate of 2.5 per cent, a level which is open to much debate and almost certainly overstates real core inflation, the concealed hand of the Government's European policy is being seen.

By forcing a tightening of policy at a time when, as Professor Marris argues, no such policy is required (rather the reverse) Gordon Brown is ensuring that the economy declines to such an extent that, leading up to the crucial 2001-02 period, convergence of growth and interest rates would fit with the conditions found within the euro zone. Yes again, as a result of a fixation with the European issue, great harm has already been and will further be done to all aspects of the British economy.

To remove all such charges of the concealed hand, if the Bank of England is to be truly independent, let it be similar to that of the US Federal Reserve Bank, which is not given any specific inflation target.

Yours faithfully,
S. H. WHITE,
2 The Lodge,
Kennington Park Gardens, W11 3HA,
July 31.

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, Your report of July 28 on the appointment of Mr Nick Brown as the new Agriculture Minister, suggesting that his close relationship with the Chancellor of the Exchequer should be an asset when competing for Treasury cash to spend on agriculture, indicates a misunderstanding of the true significance of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

The CSR allocated £1,111.3 billion of public spending for the three years 1999-2000 to 2001-02. Broadly, all this has been allocated to individual departments, with the exception of £12 billion held as a contingency reserve. This contingency reserve, at barely 1 per cent of the public spending concerned, is only around one third of the size of the average equivalent contingency reserve held over the last 15 years or so. It will easily be swallowed up in emergencies, and will certainly not be available for any ongoing Ministry of Agriculture programmes.

The key point to grasp about the CSR is that all the money the Government is hoping to collect before the next election has already been allocated. The cupboard is bare, and there is nothing left for departmental ministers to squabble over.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK
(Head of Economics),
Chantry Vellacott,
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square, WC1B 5LF,
July 28.

Tory values

From the Reverend Stephen Trotter

Sir, Mr Tim Montgomerie's attempt (letter, July 29) to claim the Church of England as a political ally, on the grounds that its moral teaching is further from new Labour than it was from the Conservatives, is bound to fall both in theory and as a matter of history.

It became hard to know what exactly was conservative about his party during its 18 years in government, except perhaps its defence of inherited privilege in the House of Lords. It was his party which introduced Sunday trading, relaxed the time-limit for abortions, and undermined support for the family through the taxation and benefits system. Its current leader supports the campaign to lower the age of homosexual consent to 16.

Although several honourable exceptions remain within the Shadow Cabinet, it is Mr Montgomerie's party which has become the radical player on the Westminster scene. Its continuing obsession with free market ideology has reduced a party which once upheld this country's Christian tradition to one which appears to know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN TROTTER,
The Rectory, Humfrey Lane,
Boughdon, Northampton NN2 8RQ,
July 29.

Longer in the tooth

From Mr Maurice Taylor

Sir, Over the age of 50, age comparisons are seldom much fun: but to be reminded that one is actually older than *The Beano* (report, July 30) is even less comical. Is there anyone left who might be compared to the tenth edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1902)? They would at least have something to be snooty about.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE TAYLOR,
22 Claremont Hill,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1RD.

Need to target mental health spending more effectively

From Professor Sir David Goldberg

Sir, The news of new mental health spending (reports, July 30) is welcome but there must be considerable anxiety about what it will be spent on. The proposed network of local medium-term secure units will consume a large proportion of any new resource, and there are many more deserving things on which to spend new money.

The lack of such accommodation arises because of a shortage of adequate supported accommodation at much lower levels of security. Care in small institutions can be just as harmful as in large ones, and the newly available resources could be spent more profitably on improving services for the vast majority of severely ill patients whose behaviour poses no threat to public safety.

What is needed is an adequate number of beds in hospital and community settings and enough staff to provide a range of specialised mental health care in the community and in primary-care settings. In large cities outside London, health authorities spend about 2.1 per cent less than their allocation on mental health, while London authorities spend slightly more than their allocation. The higher London spend is probably because they have far more mentally disordered offenders and more referrals to the private sector, leaving much less for the remaining mental health needs of Londoners.

What is needed is some mechanism

for guaranteeing that both health and social services spend appropriate amounts on mental health care, proportional to the needs of the population they serve.

Yours truly,
DAVID GOLDBERG (Director,
Research and Development),
Institute of Psychiatry,
De Crespigny Park,
Denmark Hill, SE5 8AF,
July 30.

From the Chief Executive of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers

Sir, Community and psychiatric services will work effectively only if relatives and partners who look after somebody at home are recognised as a vital part of community care.

Major decisions in mental health cases often affect the carer. But carers are frequently excluded from the decision-making process. It is too often taken for granted that they will provide the support needed, even if this involves putting their own life on hold, or even at risk. For care to be effective, all partners involved must take part in the discussion.

If the new package is to work, carers must be listened to. They should also know whom to contact if the situation deteriorates.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BUTLER,
Chief Executive, The Princess
Royal Trust for Carers,
142 Minories, EC3N 1LS.

From Dr Edward Petch

Sir, Frank Dobson's initiatives, long overdue, fail to mention the very large number of mentally disordered people in prison — approximately two thirds of men in the remand population and one third of those in the sentenced population, according to research carried out by the Institute of Psychiatry.

A substantial number of these prisoners require transfer to hospital for assessment and treatment, but in many cases lack of resources at a local level prevents admission.

Some of these individuals have already demonstrated their capacity for violent or destructive behaviour, yet at the end of their period in custody they are released into the community. Many do not receive the care which they require, and this potentially puts them and the public at risk.

Perhaps closer liaison between the Department of Health and the Home Office, assisted by the new "enforcer", Dr Jack Cunningham, might result in initiatives to improve the lot of this vulnerable and disadvantaged group.

Yours faithfully,
E. PETCH
(Forensic psychiatrist),
c/o Institute of Psychiatry,
De Crespigny Park,
Denmark Hill,
London SE5 8AF,
July 29.

Labour policy on housing provision

From the Deputy Prime Minister

Sir, It is a pity that your leading article of July 31, headed "Green, unpleasant land: Prescott's victory threatens rural England", chose to base opinions on fiction rather than fact.

The forecast that 4.4 million new households will form between 1991 and 2016 was published in 1995 (and was endorsed yesterday in the report of the Environment and Transport Select Committee as being "the best one there is"). There is no intention that development should take place "largely in green belt land", and there is no inconsistency between our policy and the decision to direct West Sussex County Council to increase the housing provision figure in their structure plans.

The select committee supports our clearly stated view that, if the countryside, including land designated as green belt, is to be protected, more housing must be provided within existing urban areas, primarily on recycled, previously used sites. We have already acted to increase the previous Government's target for brownfield development from 50 per cent to 60 per cent. However, the select committee also makes it very clear that the Government has a responsibility to ensure that the sufficient homes are built.

The new approach we have devised for determining the level of housing provision in local authority development plans will be more "bottom

up", transparent and inclusive, allowing for greater flexibility in the use made of the household projections. As the select committee says: "Local authorities' and regional planning conferences' new powers must be exercised with responsibility."

It will remain the task of the Secretary of State to oversee the system. I have demonstrated flexibility in the decisions I have taken not to intervene in plans which have housing figures below the guidance level in Hertfordshire and Dorset. In the case of West Sussex the proposed under-provision was 25 per cent. I considered this was unsatisfactory and issued a direction.

West Sussex challenged this in the courts (report, July 31) — not the other way round, as your leading article implies. The High Court has held that I acted reasonably in reaching this view.

We will now develop our policy guidance, taking account of the recommendations of the select committee, to which we will respond in due course. But intelligent debate about the issues is not helped by misleading headlines such as yours.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PRESCOTT,
Department of the Environment,
Transport and the Regions,
Bland House,
Bressenden Place, SW1E 5DU,
July 31.

Leaning Tower

From Professor James Beck and Professor Piero Pierotti

Sir, The courteous letter from Professor John B. Burland (July 23) concerning the heated controversy over the Leaning Tower of Pisa is most welcome. Nonetheless, your report of July 18 ("Experts wrangle over best angle") referred to certain of our observations which clearly justify our criticism of the commission in charge. These are:

1. The proposed steel cables represent the fourth "provisional" solution projected for the Tower between 1990 and today.

2. The definitive project (the one outlined by Professor Burland) does not exist as yet. The experiments to verify whether it can be put into operation have been postponed to the beginning of 1999, by which time the present commission's assignment will be over. The commission is consuming more time for the approval of the project than was required for moving the temples of Abu Simbel. Disagreements within the commission itself are not a minor reason for such delays.

Sincerely,
JAMES BECK,
Columbia University,
PIERO PIEROTTI,
University of Pisa,
Edelboden Superior 12,
10020 Gressoney la Trinité
(Aosta), Italy.
jamesbeck@aol.com
July 31.

Shot for cowardice

From Sir John Boynton, MC

Sir, I believe the Government was wrong to refuse a pardon to the 306 men who were shot in the Great War (report, July 25; letter, July 30). It is a pity to have been so legalistic when a generous gesture would have been welcomed by so many, in particular by wartime veterans like myself.

My experience in ten months with the 15th Scottish Reconnaissance Regiment in North West Europe in 1944-45 was that we had all been given different measures of courage. Experience taught us about ourselves and our limitations, but also the sort of tasks or enterprises particular members of the unit were capable of.

The common factor was that, whatever our given quantity of courage, it would be diminished and eroded by continuing periods of anxiety and danger. The need for periodical rest and recuperation was recognised by the rule that you had to take your allotted leave on the due date, whatever operations you might miss as a result.

I do not think that people who get to the end of their tether and can take no more should be punished, much less shot at dawn, pour encourager les autres.

Yours truly,
J. K. BOYNTON,
40 High Sheldon,
Sheldon Avenue, N6 4NU,
July 27.

Drinking time

From Mr Frederic Cassin

Sir, Your report (July 22) about the proposal to reform the licensing laws and extend public house hours reminded me of an anecdote about the great American humorist, Will Rogers.

In 1933, after the repeal of Prohibition in America, the New York city fathers, in their wisdom, set the bar closing hours at 4am. Citizens, who had been able to drink around the clock when liquor was illegal, complained about this. But Rogers said: "If you can't get drunk by 4am, you ain't really trying."

Yours faithfully,
F. CASSIN,
95 Cliftonpark Avenue,
Belfast BT14 6DS,
July 28.

Living wills

From the General Secretary of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society

Sir, In their rejection of the Law Commission's recommendations to give statutory powers to living wills (letter, July 21; see also letter, July 28) Lord McColl of Dulwich *et al* quote the view of the select committee of the House of Lords on medical ethics that "progressive development and the ultimate acceptance of the notion that some treatment is inappropriate should make it unnecessary to consider the withdrawal of nutrition and hydration..."

It is not clear from this statement who "ultimately accepts" the inappropriateness of certain medical treatments, although I suspect it would be doctors. This would allow them to impose their own particular brand of ethical or religious beliefs on patients.

In contrast, living wills permit patients, who I contend are best placed to make decisions about their own lives, to refuse life-prolonging treatment in advance. They would deem such treatment inappropriate in a situation when they are unlikely to recover from an illness or incapacity involving severe distress or incapacity for rational existence.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN OLIVER,
General Secretary,
The Voluntary Euthanasia Society,
13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W8 5PE.

Bus service

From the Managing Director of Buffalo Travel

Sir, Whilst I do not think that the Department of Transport would approve of us allowing Johanna Lockert's husband to dismantle and rebuild our buses and coaches at weekends (letter, July 29), polishing is a different matter.

Yours faithfully,
TIM CECIL,
Managing Director, Buffalo Travel,
Enterprise Way, Farnwick,
Bedfordshire MK45 5BW,
July 29.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Stage directions

From Mr Michael Horne

Sir, Early in 1947 I was waiting outside the Academy cinema in Oxford Street on a rainy evening for a girl who in fact never turned up.

I was wearing my recently acquired "demob suit" (weed jacket, grey flannels) underneath an ill-fitting raincoat that had also been provided by a grateful King and country (letters, July 23, 27, 31). The trilly hat issued had blown away the previous week and I'd taken to wearing a black beret.

Because I'd run from Tottenham Court Road Tube to be on time and was hot, I was holding the beret in my hand. The girl was already 15 minutes late and my facial expression was probably beseeching of fate.

In any case, a passer-by suddenly tossed a sixpenny piece into the beret. Somewhat bemused I left it there, and by the time I finally gave the girl up 25 minutes later and went into the cinema alone I'd gained a full half-crown — more than enough to pay for my customary seat in the front stalls.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL HORNE,
The Carriage House, The Street,
Morston near Holt NR25 7AA.

Trade description

From Mr David T. Evans

Sir, In a recently received catalogue from a noted specialist record shop I see for sale "the original Reykjavik cast in *The Little Shop of Horrors*". Would that all shops could be as candid about their wares.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID T. EVANS,
22 North Gardner Street,
Glasgow G11 5BT,
August 2.

Interesting condition

From Mr Allan Shore

Sir, I have received a letter from the woman consumer adviser for Daz soap powder. It starts: "Dear Mr Shore, if like me, you're a mum..."

Yours perplexedly,
ALLAN SHORE,
36 Wandie Road, SW17 7DW,
August 1.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR DAVID FULKER

David W. Fulker, Professor of Statistical Genetics at the Institute of Psychiatry, London University, died from cancer of the pancreas on July 9 aged 61. He was born on March 8, 1937.

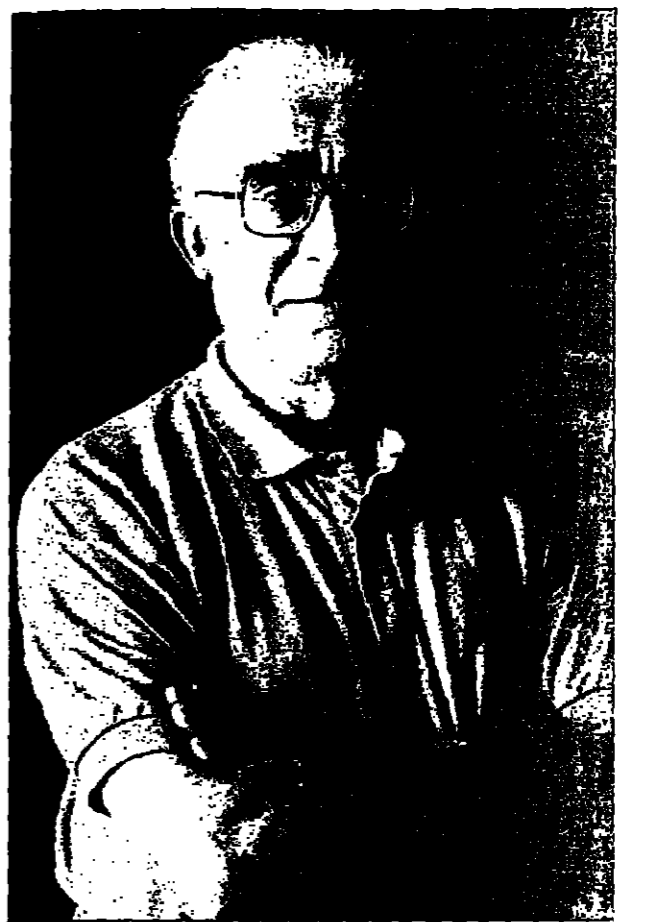
David Fulker did not publish his first scientific paper until he was nearly 30 but he went on to become one of the world's leading figures in behaviour genetics. At the time of his death he was still producing some of the most exciting and innovative work on the borders between quantitative and molecular genetics. From a modest background - he was the son of a Welsh former miner - Fulker grew up in London and did not immediately appear destined for the higher reaches of academic life. On leaving school he trained as a teacher and then worked variously as a chemistry teacher and a photographer before enrolling for a BSc in psychology at Birkbeck College, London University. He graduated, aged 27, with first-class honours and then did something highly unconventional for a British psychologist in the 1960s: he embarked on a career in genetics. His masters degree at Birmingham introduced him to the biometrical approach, the use of statistical methods to assess the relative contributions of inheritance and environment to continuous traits (such as, in humans, height, weight or blood pressure). The

genetics of such traits tends to be complicated, and the work contrasted with much of the rest of genetic research at that time, which tended to focus on simple Mendelian (ie, present or absent) characteristics. Fulker's first major study, carried out under the supervision of J. L. Jinks, was on mating speed in fruit flies. It was published in *Science* in 1966 and immediately had an impact on the thinking of behavioural geneticists. Fulker went on to complete his PhD in Birmingham, and with Jinks published in 1970 a paper in *Psychological Bulletin* which proposed extending the biometrical genetic approach to the study of human behaviour. It proved a classic in the field. Fulker remained at Birmingham University as a lecturer in the psychology department until 1975, when he was offered a post at the Institute of Psychiatry in London. He was appointed senior lecturer at the Institute and director of its animal laboratories at the Bethlem Royal Hospital. His years at the Institute were highly productive and he produced much important research, establishing that there is a substantial genetic influence on a wide variety of behaviours both in rodents and in man. But his work also showed that human traits, such as personality type or susceptibility to alcoholism or depression, depend on an interplay between genes and environment. These results were achieved by using new analytical approaches developed in association with colleagues such as J. C. DeFries. By the early 1980s Fulker's international standing was unquestioned. In 1982 he was elected president of the Behaviour Genetics Association and in 1985 he became executive editor of the journal *Behavior Genetics*. However, by this time Fulker's field, always a very specialised one, had become unfashionable and rather neglected among academic psychologists in Britain. By contrast it was thriving in the United States, where research funds were plentiful. In 1985 Fulker accepted a professorship at the University of Colorado's Institute for Behavioral Genetics at Boulder, one of the world's leading centres, and he moved there with his wife, Angela Elliot, and her daughter Katherine. In 1986, their own daughter Rosanna was born. The family were soon settled and Fulker's reputation attracted research funds which enabled him to assemble a larger scientific team than had ever been feasible in Britain. He began working on a problem which had now become vital, how to combine biometrical or quantitative genetics with the burgeoning study of molecular genetics. This was difficult enough in studies of animal behaviour, where experimenters could at least design breeding programmes to discover which piece of DNA is inherited along with what type of behaviour. With humans, the task was even more complex, because we have what is to geneticists the vexing habit of following our own breeding programmes. Fulker's solution was to adopt an approach based on regression analysis that he and DeFries had developed earlier to analyse twin studies. With his former PhD student L. R. Cardon, Fulker showed that it was theoretically possible to detect those DNA markers that can predict similarities between pairs of siblings with respect to quantitative traits. They went on, with others at the University of Colorado, to use the method to find a gene on chromosome 6 that contributes to reading difficulties. Meanwhile in Britain, behaviour genetics had been rejuvenating. The Medical Research Council funded a new centre for social, genetic and developmental psychiatric research at the Institute of Psychiatry in London in 1995, under the directorship of Professor Sir Michael Rutter, and it began recruiting academic stars including several prominent Americans. Fulker was offered and accepted a new London chair in statistical genetics in 1996. Greatly enthusiastic about his new position and still brimming with novel ideas about methods of identifying genes for behavioural traits, he seemed to be hitting his scientific peak as he was entering his seventh decade. Tragically, illness intervened and Britain was cheated of the benefit of a successful exercise in reversing the brain drain. Friends and family will remember Fulker as an unassuming and kindly man who was invariably a good company. Despite his intellect he was never intimidating - except perhaps for dinner party guests marveling at his culinary skills and knowledge of wine, and wondering how they were going to repay his hospitality. He leaves his widow, daughter and stepdaughter.



Portrait of Professor David Fulker, showing him in a suit and glasses, looking slightly to the side.

ARNOLD LEVENE



Arnold Levene, pathologist, died on July 18 aged 73. He was born on December 7, 1924.

EARLY in his career Arnold Levene led the development of the frozen section technique for studying tumours in the surgical operating theatre, allowing pathologists to give surgeons a definitive diagnosis on the spot, and enabling them to perform appropriate surgery then and there. This avoided the common practice of having a second operation at a later date. His surgical training allowed Levene to co-operate fully in the solution of such problems, relieving patients of the worry of having to wait for a diagnosis. A highly respected and internationally known pathologist, he remained active in private practice until his death, which came suddenly, on his way to the synagogue. Arnold Levene qualified from University College Hospital, London, in 1948. He obtained his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1954, but his surgical career was cut short by tuberculosis. Although he was allowed to return to work after many months, he was advised to abandon the stressful demands of surgery and work in another area of medicine. This brought about his switch to a career in pathology, with a more regulated pattern of life. His interest soon centred on morbid anatomy, as it was then known: that it is now known as surgical pathology is largely due to his efforts over the following decades. He was ideally suited for this change of direction. Being a highly gifted intellectual, he soon became absorbed in this very academic branch of medicine. It took him to the Royal Marsden Hospital, where his ability was swiftly recognised by appointment to the consultant staff. He soon began work on his great contribution to the training of surgeons, by emphasising the neglected subject of surgical pathology. He established a junior hospital doctor's training post in his department, and scores of aspiring surgeons from all over the world were trained there over the years. He lectured widely on this matter and involved the Royal Colleges in his work. Another area in which his expertise on tumour pathology was sought was in veterinary work, which involved him in liaison with the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals and the Royal Veterinary College for his PhD thesis on malignant melanoma in grey horses. Much of the research for this was carried out in association with the Horse Guards' barracks in London, where the famous greys are housed. Visitors to his laboratory were greeted by an enormous horse's skull. His other great strength was as a teacher. Being an eminently sensible and practical teacher, intolerant of humbug, he was in demand for the training programmes for the Royal College examinations. He had a vast collection of pathology material for this purpose (much of it kept on the shelves of his dining room at home), and to work with him on such sessions was an education and a pleasure. He was an eloquent lecturer, and gave sparkling impromptu talks. He was particularly proud of the occasion when he stood in for a missing speaker at a school prizegiving with an entertaining talk on "Diseases of Old Coats" - genuinely off-the-cuff. For many years he was the coroner's pathologist for Beckenham and Bromley. He found this work fascinating because it brought him into contact with every level of society and every sort of behaviour. It also taught him great tact in dealing with relatives and friends of the deceased, and he knew the value to them of speed and efficiency in the performance of post-mortem examination. He was always particularly assiduous in helping the families of orthodox Jews, for whom a speedy burial is of great religious importance. To those who did not know his field of work and autographed him at parties asking for medical advice, he would offer a good autopsy at a reasonable price. (He always allowed his mother to believe that he was a surgeon, as she would not have considered pathology a nice job.) Levene was frankly critical of pomposity, and forthright in his carefully considered opinions. This made him a formidable expert witness in medico-legal cases, as many barristers (and some judges) found to their cost. Being an internationally recognised authority on the subject of malignant melanoma, he was much involved with conference work and with the World Health Organisation. He was a gifted linguist, and when asked to chair a meeting in Italy he taught himself enough of the language from scratch in ten days to be able to do so in Italian. With an encyclopaedic memory, he was passionate about literature, opera, wine, history, biology, zoology, horticulture and all areas of Jewish learning. He created beautiful gardens in London and in Somerset, in which he worked energetically until the very end of his life. He is survived by his wife Leatrice and their son and four daughters.

CECIL MELLING

Cecil Melling, CBE, electrical engineer, died on July 10 aged 98. He was born on December 12, 1909.

CECIL MELLING was a leading influence in the development of electricity supply in Britain in the postwar era. Leaving his native Lancashire in the 1930s, he became borough electrical engineer of Luton in 1943 and on nationalisation in 1948 he was appointed the first chairman of the Eastern Electricity Board, the largest of the English boards. Appointed CBE in 1955 for his services to electricity supply, he moved in 1957 to the Electricity Council as a full-time member, and was deputy chairman from 1961 to 1965. Melling was one of a generation of electrical engineers who saw the expansion of supply as a social and economic service to the nation as well as a commercial reality, and in his nine-year tenure at the Eastern Electricity Board he developed both organisation and staff to enable 500,000 new consumers and 12,000

farms to share its benefits, sometimes risking official censure in the drive to electrify the rural expanses of East Anglia. He was committed to consultation with staff and consumers, but at the same time took a strategic view of issues such as the expensive imbalance between day and night demand, which led him to introduce off-peak tariffs (against peer opposition) and to stimulate manufacturers to the commercial development of domestic storage heaters. He was actively involved from his student days in the Institution of Electrical Engineers. He served as its President in 1962-63, and continued to support the development of the profession for the rest of his life, attending occasional gatherings well into his nineties. He was also president of a number of the industry's other associations and boards. Cecil Thomas Melling was born in Wigan, and his family history offers a case-study in the 19th-century Nonconformist concept of social duty and obligation. His great-grandfather, once involved in building locomotives for Brunel, founded two Wigan ironworks whose success in the market for safer mining machinery supported a large extended family, many of whom figured in the life of Wigan and its Methodist churches. Early life in this environment shaped Melling's attitudes of tolerance and liberal respect, mixed with a legacy of Edwardian formality. His later support of internationalism and the League of Nations from the standpoint of Manchester liberalism was followed in the 1930s by active membership of New Commonwealth, a society seeking to promote international law and order as war clouds gathered. Prudently discreet throughout his professional life, he remained a Liberal at heart and took a committed interest when one of his sons stood as a Liberal Democrat in the 1997 general election. A "sticky child", he was condemned at 18 to the prospect of a short life by American military doctors. But after being passed by less cautious doctors after a year of college, he

joined the Royal Engineers and reported after officer training for his first posting at Chatham at 9am on Armistice Day, 1918, so earning one of the shortest of war records before returning to his studies. Cecil Melling balanced admirably the engineering, economic and human aspects of his role - he was, in current parlance, a "hybrid manager" by character and instinct. He exercised authority always with a courtesy of habit, and was a firm but diplomatic negotiator. His retentive memory, whether for poetry or events, was a source of admiration to those closest to him throughout his life. In his earlier days he played rugby and walked extensively in the Lakes, North Wales, and Scotland. In Snowdonia he met Ursula Thornburn, whom he married in 1929. Their first years together were tragically marred by the infant deaths of their first two children, but three other children followed. His wife died in 1989, shortly after their diamond wedding. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.



LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER DOUGLAS WILLIAMS



Lieutenant-Commander Douglas Williams, wartime naval commander, died on July 2 aged 85. He was born on February 10, 1913.

AS Officer of the Watch off Madagascar in May 1942, Douglas Williams saved the aircraft carrier *HMS Indomitable* from being torpedoed. He spotted two tracks heading for the ship, made an immediate alteration of course and watched the torpedoes pass harmlessly by. He was proud that he did not lose any of the seven vessels he commanded. The incident off Madagascar was one of three major amphibious landings - Oran and Sicily were the others - in which he was involved during a wartime career that included service with the Malta convoy, with Atlantic and Russian convoys, and the liberation of the Channel Islands. He spent 46 years in the Merchant and Royal Navies, and served in 12 warships. He particularly treasured his time

under the command of outstanding officers such as Admiral Sir Max Horton and Admiral Tom Troubridge, from whom he learnt the strict code of behaviour that he passed on to others. Charles Theodore Douglas Williams grew up in Surrey and was educated at the London Polytechnic in Regent Street. From an early age, he was keen to go to sea. When he was 16, his grandfather organised a working passage for him to New York aboard a Cunard liner. Later that year, 1929, he started work as a Merchant Navy cadet. After training with the Silver Line and trips on the Cunard Line, he volunteered for the Royal Naval Reserve and started training at *HMS Drake* and *HMS Kiltwaive*. After serving in *HMS Foresight* and *HMS Rochester* as a lieutenant, he joined *HMS Indomitable* in July 1941, in which he took part in the invasion of Madagascar, the famous Malta convoy of August 1942 and the invasion

of Sicily. In September 1943, he took command of *HMS Conn* and told his first ship's company: "It is not our job to die for our country. It is our job to make the Germans die for theirs." He spent nearly a year escorting Atlantic and Russian convoys until November 1944, when he took command of *HMS Beagle* and was promoted to lieutenant-commander. In May 1945, the *Beagle* led the task force that liberated the Channel Islands, the German surrender being signed in Williams's cabin. This experience forged a bond of friendship with the islanders which Williams strengthened after the war, when he commanded four ships before spending a happy tour at RNAS Lossiemouth as its first lieutenant. From 1950 to 1952, Williams served in *HMS Triumph*, but he missed the informality of small ship life, and he subsequently became the Assistant Naval Attaché in the British Embassy in Tokyo.

After returning to Britain in 1957, he retired from the Navy and joined Shell Tankers UK. He pioneered for them what has since become the oil industry's standard system for training tanker officers. In 1966, while still working for Shell, he joined the Royal Naval Reserve at Plymouth and was awarded the Reserve Decoration. In 1970, Williams retired to make his home at Tavistock in Devon, where service with Shell had taken him. For many years subsequently he did voluntary work for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and other charities. In 1972, he ran a temporary camp at Honiton, Devon, to re-settle deported Ugandan Asians. He was a man with an irrepressible sense of humour and an instinctive interest in young people, and he invested great confidence in those close to him. He is survived by his wife, whom he married during his years in Tokyo, and by their son and daughter.

Latest wills

John George Buckley, of Marlborough, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, left estate valued at £659,677 net. Irene Constance Dugdale, of Clifton, Bristol, left estate valued at £570,718 net. Brian Edlington, of Beckingham, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at £732,444 net. Beryl Catherine George, of Cadeleigh, Tiverton, Devon, left estate valued at £522,931 net. Mary Dorothy Gaffney, of Mallock, Derbyshire, left estate valued at £834,497 net. She left £500 cash to RSPCA, Arthritis Care, and Richmond Social Club for the Blind. Sylvia Mary Green, of Cubbington, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, left estate valued at £514,247 net. Nancy Doreen Haine, of Chipping Sodbury, Bristol, left estate valued at £849,981 net. John Alfred Hamer, farmer, of Llandindod Wells, Powys, left estate valued at £653,081 net. Lieselotte Hildegard Hann, of London NW11, left estate valued at £526,998 net. Philip Sidney Medley Jones, of Bourne, Dorset, left estate valued at £705,127 net. William George Ladbrook, of Hinton, Hampshire, left estate valued at £679,565 net. He left £5,000 to the PCC of St Nicholas, Hintonham. Elizabeth Fanny Lemon, of Horsham, West Sussex, left estate valued at £585,187 net.

Dorothy Joy Linton, of London NW4, left estate valued at £543,064 net. Ernest McGann, of Seawoods, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at £582,433 net. Clive Milton, of London W9, left estate valued at £670,895 net. Hugh Noble, farmer, of East Barkwith, Lincoln, left estate valued at £526,781 net. John Greenfield Ruddock, of Boothby Graffoe, Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £552,015 net. Marguerite Audrey Salway, of Overton, Ludlow, Shropshire, left estate valued at £538,445 net. She left £500 to both the Friends of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (Shelton) and the Friends of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital. Granville Maynard Sharp, of Hassocks, West Sussex, left estate valued at £560,029 net. Elsie Mildred Sutcliffe, of Dumcote, Towcester, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £612,645 net. David Edward Geoffrey Thomas, of London SW15, left estate valued at £774,992 net. Pamela Tranfield, of Sheffield, left estate valued at £641,456 net. Reginald Wilfrid Webster, of Over, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £669,111 net. Brian George Wenham, of Weybridge, Surrey, left estate valued at £550,260 net. Phyllis Whiston-Barber, of Bricket Wood, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £502,817 net.

SWISS CELEBRATION ON THIS DAY

The celebration of the 600th anniversary of the foundation of the Swiss Confederation began yesterday and is being continued today throughout the country. The official fetes, to which the Federal Council made a subvention of £10,000, have been held at Schwytz, the capital of the primitive canton, which not only gives the country its name but is also the home of the liberties of the people. There was a long struggle between Bern, which had a claim, seeing that a fortnight hence the city will celebrate the 700th centenary of its foundation, and Schwytz for the honour of being the centre for the national fetes, but the Federal Assembly naturally decided in favour of the charming little spot so closely associated with the foundation of their Republic. The Austrian Minister attended, as did also those of France, Great Britain, Germany and Italy. Yesterday the guests and delegates went in procession to church, where a solemn mass was celebrated. The chief

Swiss history, to glorify the freedom and liberty which the people enjoy, and to show how the Confederation had developed from three primitive cantons to 22. August 3, 1891. The Swiss nation celebrated the dawn of the seventh century of its history with an open-air pageant in a valley - "one of the most picturesque" in the entire Republic. GAMBLING AT MONTE CARLO. Mr Wells, the Englishman who had so extraordinary a run of luck at the gaming tables here, winning over £20,000 at roulette, continues to be favoured by the same good fortune. Finding the luck turning against him, he had the prudence to quit the table at which he had been so assiduously playing day after day from the opening of the Casino till its close. Before leaving the building, however, he risked a few stakes at another game, trente-et-quarante, and, winning each, continued to play till he had further increased his gains by the sum of 160,000, or close upon £5,400. Mr Wells at trent-et-quarante follows the same system that proved so successful in his case at roulette - the famous "coup des trois" - that is to say, following the luck until he has won three in succession, and then withdrawing the accumulated stake.

DAY AUGUST 3 1998

RADIO & TV

Preview: How a gardening...
...my Life. BBC2, 7.30p
...Fictional and real...
...reasons. writes Pa...
Page 42

OPINION

Buccaneering Brown
...right in tempo
...argument over
...Europe can't
...punch on the
...music. Page

A people betrayed
...by underme
...Mr. H...
...fence a le
Page

Time to tell all
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...a lawyer
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Page

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL
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Page

BILLIAM REES-MOGG
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Page

BETH GLEDHILL
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...the
Page

CONTINUED

...and
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Page

LETTER

...and
...and
Page

THE FIRM

...and
...and
Page

WHEN FOOT

...and
...and
Page

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

LINE HONOURS
Sails fill at Cowes Week
PAGE 29

DARK DAYS
What has happened to the mighty All Blacks?
PAGE 31

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE
Trading players and goals at Middlesbrough
PAGE 30

STAGED VICTORY
Pantani rides in to win the Tour of scandals
PAGE 32



THE TIMES SPORT

13 PAGES

MONDAY AUGUST 3 1998

QUICKSILVER McLARENS PRODUCE ANOTHER DOMINANT DISPLAY

Hakkinen on home straight in pursuit of world title



The McLaren-Mercedes cars were imperious around Hockenheim yesterday, left, allowing Hakkinen to savour victory on the podium. Main photograph: Wolfgang Rattay

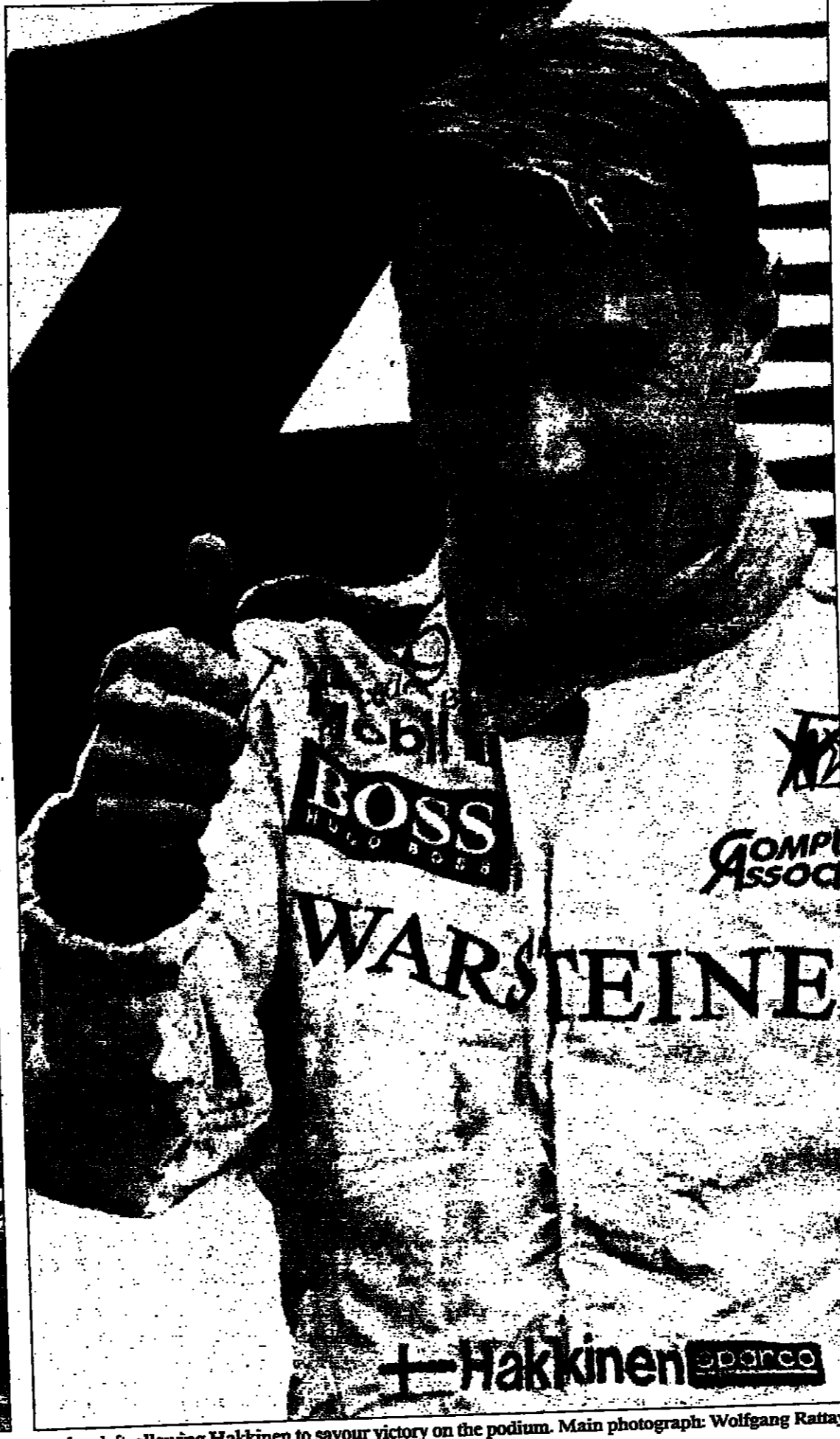
Renate Schrempp fingered the bundle of banknotes almost in disbelief at her good fortune. It was not enough that McLaren-Mercedes should make a clean sweep of the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim yesterday, but the wife of the chairman of Mercedes-Benz also won the pre-race sweepstake. Her prediction of a fifth one-two finish this season for Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard and a painful struggle to fifth place for Michael Schumacher won her £220. But as she gazed down wondering how to celebrate her winnings, she was already being submerged in a torrent of champagne in the McLaren motorhome. For Mercedes to win a grand prix on home soil for the first time since Juan-Manuel Fangio 40 years ago was enough cause for celebration: to put clear air between the modern Silver Arrows and the pursuing Ferraris of Schumacher and Eddie Irvine was of much deeper significance. This grand prix could turn out to be the decisive point in the world drivers' championship this season: the race when Hakkinen built a convincing 16-point lead over Schumacher with only five races left. If Mrs Schrempp had no doubts, Hakkinen and Coulthard have caught sight of the winning post. Hakkinen is driving like a man who

Kevin Eason watches the flying Finn take a significant step closer to the world championship at Hockenheim

knows the world championship is his. There were no wobbles yesterday, no panics when it seemed his car might be malfunctioning or running short of fuel. The once tongue-tied and reticent challenger has turned into a confident champion-in-waiting. "To hold a lead like this in the championship is great," the Finn said. "I am relaxed because I know we have the best package of car and tyres and the best team. Why should I worry? Behind him in the race, and Coulthard was simply unable — and unwilling — to risk overtaking with McLaren on the way to maximum points. The Scot probably had his chance as he led going into the pits, but he overshot the stop, which cost him a crucial second. "The mistake cost me maybe half-a-second or a second," Coulthard said, "but for that I could have got back out in front of Mika. If I had, I am sure I would have won the race. The pit-stop was my best chance, but I got held up by a couple of cars in the stadium complex. I got a little bit frustrated and in trying to make up the time I overshot in the pits." In that second, Hakkinen regained



Schumacher cuts a desolate figure as his championship hopes faded



Coulthard celebrates second place and realises that he still has an important role in the drivers' championship

the often dour approach that clouded recent races; when a championship season that once seemed a straightforward duel between Hakkinen and Coulthard became an angst-ridden, three-way affair. Just as Mercedes wants to win its first world championship in four decades, Schumacher is intent on ending a near 20-year drought in the drivers' championship for Ferrari. It seemed that the sheer force of will of the German, whose ability to snatch victory from the most unlikely circumstances, was irresistible as he reeled off three wins in a row mid-season. Perhaps, though, the irresistible of Schumacher has met the

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ATHLETICS: BRITAIN'S 400M RUNNER BIDS FAREWELL WITH CALL TO BRING OFFICIALS TO ACCOUNT

Black bows out with battling third in Sheffield

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ROGER BLACK gave a whole-hearted performance, one typical of his 13 years in athletics, but he did not quite have the staying power to win the last 400 metres of his career in the British grand prix at Don Valley Stadium, Sheffield, last night. Black came off the final bend leading but was beaten on the run-in by Mark Richardson and Iwan Thomas.

A week ago, Richardson and Thomas had earned their places in the Great Britain team for the European championships in Budapest this month. Black, though, was controversially omitted from the team after finishing fourth in the trial. He may not have been as quick last night as he would have liked but his effort could not have been faulted. Richardson won in 45.02sec, with Thomas second in 45.25sec and Black third in 45.51sec.

Whether this proves to be Black's last race remains open to slight doubt. Should one of the three athletes selected ahead of him for Budapest suffer an injury between now and then, Black would be the obvious replacement.

Black has said that he would remain on standby. Till Luft, the European Athletics Association secretary, has said that, provided Black's name was among the four permitted entries for each event to be submitted by the August 8 deadline, he could be included in the final three which need not be declared until two days before the first round on August 19.

It made good sense to treat last night as the farewell. Black's parting shot, though, was to insist that selectors are made accountable for such decisions in future. He said that now they were paid in their roles as coaches em-

played by British athletics courtesy of Lottery funding, they should be subject to the same scrutiny as football managers when it comes to keeping their jobs.

Black, 32, will turn to television work and the motivational speaking he conducts for businessmen. "There are a lot of things in my life and I do not need athletics as a reason for being," he said.

That he was unable to close the circle on his career will always irk him, though. This athlete, who has won individual and relay medals from all four of the international championships, said he had so wanted to draw the curtain at the European championships.

"My career began in 1986, when I won the Europeans," he said. "Okay, I had won the Commonwealth Games two weeks before, but winning the Europeans was my world breakthrough and that would have been a lovely way to end my career. I was a 20-year-old naive dreamer and I began the season aged 32, not so naive, but still dreaming."

The selectors seemed to overlook one critical point when omitting Black from an individual place for Budapest.

"I am a good competitor when it matters," Black said. "I cannot think of any championship in which I should have performed where I have not performed."

"I should have won the world championship in 1991 but I still won the silver so I have never really messed up." True, Black was eliminated in the semi-finals of the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona but the fact that he was there at all was remarkable in itself as he had spent the year trying to recover from injury.

Rather than single out one highlight from his career, Black chooses three: his Olymp-

pic silver medal, the second of his European title wins, in 1990, and the Great Britain 4 x 400 metres relay victory at the 1991 world championships.

Only once before last night had Black ended a race in tears. It was in 1994, after the European championship final in Helsinki, when he was beaten into second place by his fellow Briton, Du'aine Ladejo. "I was bitterly disappointed because I was better than Ladejo," Black said. "But I was coming off glandular fever and ran out of steam."

Jonathan Edwards stretched his unbeaten record in the triple jump this season to 11 competitions, although his winning jump, 17.14 metres, was modest by his standards. Nevertheless, it was sufficient to defeat Denis Kapustin, from Russia, the European champion.

Colin Jackson, though, was beaten into third place in the 110 metres hurdles. Reggie Torian, a former American footballer, lived up to his status as the fastest hurdler of the year, winning in 13.15sec. Allen Johnson, the Olympic champion, made it a United States 1-2, in 13.24, with Jackson recording 13.24.

Jackson's fellow Welshman, Paul Gray, continues to move in the right direction, having moved on from the sprint hurdles to the one-lap event.

Gray has been chosen for Budapest and, although he could finish only fourth last night, he improved his career best to 49.76sec. Gray was bronze medal winner in the 110 metres hurdles at the 1994 Commonwealth Games but made the switch last year to the longer event. Last night he was up against Stephane Diagana, the world champion, from France, who was a clear winner.



Edwards steps out to maintain his unbeaten triple jump record this season

Juniors provide vision of golden future

Steven Downes on record medal haul for Britain at world championships

DESPAIR turned to delight in less than five minutes at the seventh world junior championships in Anisney yesterday: tears were being shed by the Great Britain 4 x 100 metres men's relay team after they were disqualified for a faulty take-off, while on the track, Julie Pratt was surprisingly adding to the British gold medal haul in the 100 metres hurdles.

When, later in the cold, wet afternoon, David Parker won the fourth gold medal of the week for Britain, in the javelin, it stamped these championships as the country's most successful since the first, in Athens in 1986, when Colin Jackson, David Sharpe and the sprint relay team all won. Add to the final medal tally the near-misses yesterday when the women's 4 x 100 metres team finished fourth, the fifth place of the men's 4 x 400 metres relay team, and the fourth place achieved by Ben Warrington in the sprint hurdles, and the championships for Britain were a success.

A year ago, at the European junior championships, Pratt, 19, had led at the final hurdle when she fell, badly grazing herself from head to toe.

"The fall would have been worse for Julie if she didn't have another year in the age group," Ian Grant, who trains Pratt at the Essex Ladies club, said. "At least we always knew she had another chance here."

A chance, perhaps, but seemingly a slim one. In the lane alongside Pratt was Hongwei Sun, one of the all-conquering China team. Sun's best time of 12.92sec compared to the 13.52 of Pratt. Sun, in fact, was one of four women faster, on paper, than the Briton.

Conditions for the final were far from perfect. The teaming rain meant the athletes were drenched, even before the fourth false start. At the fifth time of asking, they got away, Pratt managing possibly the best start of her career, and a tight race became a battle over the final two flights. "When I cleared the last hurdle," Pratt said, "I just closed my eyes and went for the line. I didn't know I'd won until I heard the announcement." Pratt and Sun were given the same time, 13.75.

Parker's victory in the javelin was, if anything, an even greater triumph over adversity. Two weeks ago, Parker, 19, from Scarborough, could not walk because of a torn ligament behind his right knee. Then, when he was warming up for the qualifying round on Friday, an official balked

Parker during an approach run for a practice throw, causing him to stop sharply and twist his damaged knee.

Parker managed to qualify for the final and another two days of physiotherapy saw him fit enough to throw at full throttle in the final. His first effort, in driving rain, soared to 72.55 metres. No one managed to get within a metre of him. "It was biting my nails all through the last round," Parker, who has a three-hour round-trip to train at Leeds with Mick Hill, the Britain No 2, said. Parker is also helped by John Trower, coach to Steve Backley, but for all Backley and Hill's achievements, Parker is the first British javelin thrower to win a world or Olympic gold medal.

By winning his second gold in the 200 metres on Saturday, and completing a rare sprint double, Christian Malcolm laid claim to being



Malcolm: second gold

the outstanding male athlete of the championships. His 20.44sec in the final broke the British junior record, set 13 years ago by Ade Mafe, by 0.1sec.

While Mafe, an Olympic finalist in 1984 at the age of 17, is now working in football as a fitness trainer with Chelsea, Malcolm turned his back on soccer to concentrate on athletics. Malcolm, 19, said that he decided to sign for Nottingham Forest because, "in athletics, if I fail, it is because I have failed. If I succeed, it is because of what my coach and I have done."

The two bronze medal winners reacted differently. Carl Myerscough, the 6ft 10in shot putter, was not satisfied but perhaps he will reflect that his was the best performance at world level by a British man since Geoff Capes finished fifth at the 1980 Moscow Games. Sarah Wilhelmy, in contrast, was delighted with her bronze at 200 metres, but then she has another year in the age group.

Inspired Radcliffe turns tables on O'Sullivan

By DAVID POWELL



Radcliffe victory salute

SONIA O'SULLIVAN, who beat Paula Radcliffe to the world cross-country title in Marrakesh in March, was outclassed by the Bedford runner over 3,000 metres in the British grand prix at Sheffield last night.

Radcliffe ran away from the field after the third lap to record 8min 38.84sec, indicating that her preparation for the European championships in Budapest this month is going perfectly. Radcliffe and O'Sullivan will be two of the main contenders for the 10,000 metres gold medal there.

O'Sullivan, though, seemed content to let Radcliffe get away last night and, though she put in a strong last 200 metres, still she finished seven

seconds down. "That has got to be a psychological boost for me for the Europeans," Radcliffe said. "Twice a world cross-country runner-up, she is determined this season to win her first medal at an international track championship."

She has had enough near misses to last a lifetime: fourth and fifth in the past two world championships at 5,000 metres; fifth in the Atlanta Olympics at 5,000 metres; fourth in the world junior 3,000 metres; fourth in the European junior 3,000 metres.

This year has been an outstanding one for her as she set a road five miles world record, broken Liz McColgan's 10,000 metres British record, and won the European Cup 5,000 metres. She is not satisfied yet.

"I try not to think about what I have done when I have things ahead to think about," Radcliffe said. "The thing I want more than anything is to get a medal in a track championship. I guess you start at any colour and move up from there, but it would be nice to begin at the top."

Although selected by England for the 5,000 metres at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur next month, Radcliffe's priority is the European Cup, she went into triple training in the French Pyrenees for a month, to top up her tank, and the benefit of that was evident last night.

Gary Lough, Radcliffe's boyfriend, who was training with her at Font Romeu, is no doubt she is on an upward

curve. "Paula will run a lot quicker, over 10,000 and hopefully it will be this year," Lough said.

Allison Curbishley, 22, Britain's leading woman 400 metres runner, paid the price of her courageous start when she was beaten on the line by Pauline Davis, from the Bahamas. However, it says something for Curbishley's improving status that she can count herself in the class of Davis, who, in the last three years, has finished in the top four at world championships and Olympics.

Curbishley caught Davis, two lanes outside her, before the 200 metres mark and coming into the straight, the Bath-based Scot was two metres clear. But, in the last 50 metres, Davis reeled her in.

Emma George, from Australia, suffered an unexpected defeat in the pole vault, finishing second to Nastja Rysich, of Germany. George has set 16 world records, indoors and out, and will be strong favourite to win the gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. Already, she confesses to feeling the weight of expectation as a host-nation favourite for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

"People are saying that is one gold medal in the bag," the former acrobat and trapeze artist, whose speciality was the Tower of Chairs, said. For this she would balance in the hand-stand position on three girls, six chairs and a table, the legs of which were perched on wine bottles. "I often wonder if I could do that now," George said.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Wiggins wins with superb road show

■ **CYCLING:** Bradley Wiggins completed a notable haul of titles yesterday when he won the national junior 25-mile road time trial near Bedford on his debut ride in such an event. Wiggins, 18, from London, had already won a world title in Cuba and four track titles in Manchester last week.

Wiggins won in a time of 53min 53sec with Mark Kelly, of the Isle of Man, second in 54min 28sec and Matthew Wells third in 55min 13sec. "I went better than I had anticipated," Wiggins said. "I went hard from the start and was surprised how quickly the time passed." Colin Sturgess had his first significant road race victory since 1990 yesterday when he won the 119-mile Ecclesiastical Tour of the Cotswolds.

Old stagers shine

■ **SNOOKER:** Mike Hallett and Tony Knowles, two of snooker's leading lights in the 1980s, rekindled their old form at the European Open qualifying competition in Plymouth yesterday.

Hallett, who has plummeted from No 5 to No 128 in the world, reached the third round by beating David McLellan, of Glasgow, 5-3, while Knowles eased past Neil Robertson, of Australia, 5-1.

Bonus for Belles

■ **FOOTBALL:** Clare Utley scored from 30 yards as Doncaster Belles beat Arsenal Ladies 1-0 to win the Mansfield Leisure Services Trophy yesterday. Arsenal beat Everton, the holders, on penalties in the semi-final at Mansfield, but were always second best to Doncaster. Manchester United beat Sheffield Wednesday 3-1 to win the Reebok Cup and Manchester City beat Huddersfield 1-0 to win the Mansfield Brewery Cup.

Symonds in charge

■ **CRICKET:** Andrew Symonds, the former Gloucestershire player, scored a fine unbeaten half-century to seal a five-wicket victory for Australia A against a Scotland select team at Aberdeen yesterday. Iain Philip, the captain, had earlier scored a century to help the home side to reach 188 for eight. Australia A, who had been reduced to 89 for three, won with 13 balls to spare.



Albert Costa celebrates his victory over Andrea Gaudenzi, of Italy, yesterday in the Generali Open final in Kitzbühel. The Spaniard needed almost three hours to win the match 6-2, 1-6, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 and pick up his eighth career title. The win is likely to move

him near to a top ten ranking, which he held last year before falling out of the top 20. Costa, whose titles have all come on clay, won in Hamburg in May, then reached the final of the Italian Open the following week before sustaining a wrist injury.

BOWLS

Moon enjoys day in sun

AN EXCITING finish to the third international between England and Israel on Saturday brought palpable relief to the host country, and disappointment to a team of under-rated Israelis, who were determined to inflict an unexpected defeat on some of the world's best players.

Israel had won the first international 18-4 at Cambridge Chesterton, but had lost by the same score at Selby on Thursday, and there was an air of anticipation at Victoria Park, Leamington, which is better known as the venue for the women's national championships.

Team events are the Israelis' forte, and they got stuck into their task with relish, winning one of the two triples, and two of the three pairs games,

SHOOTING

Digweed in dominant form

GEORGE DIGWEED gave an outstanding demonstration of shooting excellence on his way to winning the Embassy world sporting championship at the West London Shooting School, Northolt, Middlesex (Rosalind Nott writes).

The 34-year-old Sussex clay pigeon shooter arrived at the two-day event fresh from a record fourth victory in the European championship and, on present form, he was tipped as the man to beat. The course designer admitted that the stands were set for a maximum score of 94 targets out of 100, a target that only Digweed reached on the opening day. Few thought he could improve on the second layout. But his unwavering accuracy took him to a total of 97 on the second day, giving him an eight-target advantage going into the final shoot-off.

The six-man final was an all-English, proving domestic

SHOOTING

Digweed in dominant form

dominance of this sport. The line-up included Ben Husthwaite, 20, the former world junior champion who was lying in second place, and Matt Hance, a relative newcomer to the sport.

But under the pressure of the final 25-target shoot-off, experience won over youth and Martin Elworthy, five-times British skeet champion, shot consistently to take the silver medal six targets behind Digweed.

BOWLS

Moon enjoys day in sun

Allcock's Cheltenham clubmate, Andy Wills, added a 21-7 win over Roy Jennings, leaving Israel needing to win the remaining three matches.

Jeff Rabin, whom Allcock beat in the world final two years ago, kept Israel's hopes alive when he came back from 16-8 down to beat Grant Burgess, 21-20, but England clinched the match and series when Greg Moon edged home 21-17, against Bransky, who had to eat his words.

Leamington is now standing for the women bowlers of Devon, Surrey, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire, who will do battle for the Johns trophy. Tomorrow sees the final stages of the Walker Cup two-rink championship, and the pairs gets under way on Wednesday.

Advertisement for J. J. Hakkinen, featuring a large image of a man in a suit and the text "Hakkinen".

Villeneuve and Hill return to form behind dominant McLarens Hakkinen strengthens grip on title

FROM KEVIN EASON
IN HOCKENHEIM

IF David Coulthard was driving blind, at least his team-mate could see the picture of a world championship almost within his grasp. The Scot's visor and mirrors were covered in a filthy smear of oil leaking from Mika Hakkinen's leading McLaren yesterday as they raced towards the end of the German Grand Prix as though tied together by a piece of string.

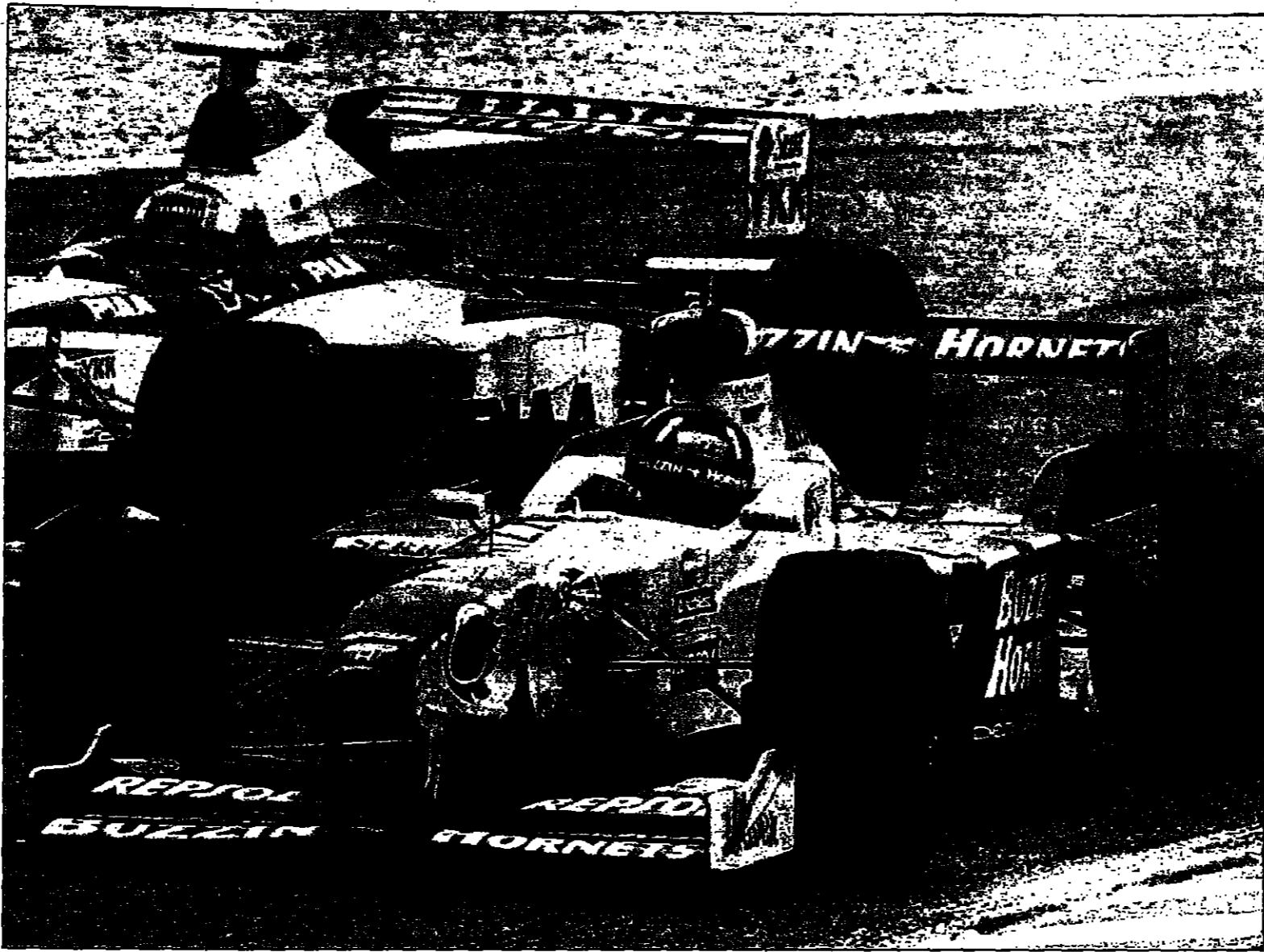
They had set off from the front of the grid in line and they finished the same way 46 laps later after yet another race of uncompromising domination. Not even a frisson of anxiety in the McLaren garage that Hakkinen's engine might be straining or that the pit crew had not put enough fuel in his car to finish the race was enough to tarnish the sheer strength of this victory.

The gap was so great between the McLarens and the rest that the team simply radioed the Finn and told him to ease off the throttle to ensure that he made it all the way home. However, behind the imperious story of McLaren, chapters were unfolding of drivers reborn and one suffering the deep agony of seeing yet another championship slip away into oblivion.

Michael Schumacher was simply never on the pace in his home grand prix and he admitted that his drive from the unfamiliar territory of ninth on the grid to fifth had been a slog against the odds. As he emerged from the Ferrari motorhome heading for his private jet and a quick escape from a miserable weekend, Schumacher shrugged and said: "We got a fifth and some points. That's the way it is and that is what we will have to be satisfied with."

"As well as watching the back wings of the other cars during the race, I was having to watch the tyres. We are trying to improve and that means finding different directions and opportunities and sometimes they work, sometimes they don't. With that, he burst through the cordon of cameramen, clearly disappointed with what is likely to prove a crucial failure.

Not only had his brow furrowed just at the mention of the word McLaren, but in this race his Ferrari was struggling against the two Jordans, including that of Damon Hill, who finished fourth, and the Williams of Jacques Villeneuve. Villeneuve surprised everyone with his speed and aggression to win his first podium place of the season and make a mark on the season.



Hill, right, overtakes Takagi on his way to claiming fourth place, his best finishing position for almost a year. Photograph: Christof Stache

Craig Pollock, the head of British American Racing, who is reported to be willing to pay £10 million for his services next year, was the only person here who believed that Villeneuve was ready for a good result in an otherwise beleaguered season, when he should have been bristling in defence of his world title. "Jacques has been like a lion in a cage all weekend, just waiting to break out," Pollock said. Villeneuve agreed and the broad smile under a new mop of lilac-coloured hair spoke volumes for a driver energised by his performance.

After his single pit-stop, he started to pull in the McLarens. A comfortable 10sec cushion at the halfway stage was just 5sec on lap 34, then 4sec, then 3sec as Villeneuve caught up at almost a

second lap. He believed, only fleetingly, that he had a chance of tackling cars that he has only seen sweeping past to lap him for most of this year. It was not to be, though. Seven laps from the end, he felt something at the back of his Williams break and eased off to make sure of the points. "The pit crew was out to help, but I decided to keep pushing because there was no time to

Hill said. "I was pushing as hard as I would have done to win a race. Fourth place is not a great result in terms of my career, but it is an excellent one in the circumstances. It was what the team needed. "I had a strong race and it was just like old times. It was good because there was such a high calibre of driver up there and I was able to put a little pressure on Jacques and keep Michael behind me."

The race was desperately important for Hill, who has been consistently outdriven by his team-mate, Ralf Schumacher, though, his tactics were perfect. While the younger Schumacher went fast but chose to stop twice, Hill ploughed on steadily to overtake him with just one visit to the pits.

As his team-mate strode quickly through the paddock, angry with a strategy that probably cost him a third place, Hill stood beaming, surrounded by a gaggle of admirers. Just like old times.

Schumacher's spin proves to be costly

FROM KEVIN EASON

THE decision is only for the most confident, because a split-second separates disaster and the fastest of laps. The Hockenheim circuit is long, at more than four miles, and effectively consists of four immense straights separated by four chicanes. The new, narrow cars with slender wings pierce the air like a mechanised dart and even the lowliest machines peak at well over 210mph.

Michael Schumacher said that the straights could almost be boring, a time when the mind wanders and the eyes glance off the track. He discovered in qualifying, though, that the balance between the low drag that offers a dramatically fast top speed and the lack of grip when the brakes try to stop the car in a distance equivalent to five cricket pitches is a delicate one.

Driving in front of his home crowd in the warm-up on Saturday morning, he span off at the first corner and lost vital practice time. As a result, he was powerless to stop McLaren dominating the qualifying session again. Mika Hakkinen taking his seventh pole position of the season, with David Coulthard alongside, while he toiled for ninth on the grid, behind both Benetton.

Instead, it was Schumacher's younger brother, Ralf, who sprang the biggest surprise, with Damon Hill, his Jordan team-mate. They qualified fourth and fifth,

delighted at last with a radically revamped car and its fifth-generation Honda engine. During the warm-up yesterday, there was no complaint from drivers who had been frustrated by the combination of unpredictable handling and low power.

Perhaps this is the start of the winning era that Eddie Jordan, the team owner, has yearned for. Confidence in the car is the key, particularly at this circuit, where the bravest allow their top speeds to run deep into the corners. It suits the experience of Hill and the bravado of Jacques Villeneuve, the world champion.

For the first time this season, the Williams were almost as fast as the McLarens, with Villeneuve seemingly daring his car to lose grip as he surged to third on the grid. Villeneuve leaves for the richer pastures of British American Racing next season, but even a salary of £10 million is the last thing on the mind of a true racer experiencing the exhilaration of 220mph and the fear of a looming gravel trap and tyre wall.

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Rydell. Within three laps, he had a 1sec advantage and it was clear that only a problem would halt his progress to a third win of the season, which he duly achieved.

Rydell followed Rydell's sprint race example by making a relatively poor start from pole in the feature race, letting James Thompson through. Reid managed to hold Rydell off for second place, with Menu, Ivan Muller and David Leslie completing the top six.

Menu then began a charge and pulled off a masterful overtaking manoeuvre to snatch the lead from Thompson on the 22nd of the 35 laps. Reid claimed fourth spot from Leslie on the same lap, but a poor replacement tyre choice hampered his efforts and his team-mate repassed him after three laps before moving up to second.

Menu was 2sec ahead of Leslie at the chequered flag, with Rydell third, a further 5sec behind. More gearbox trouble for Thompson saw him drop to fifth at the final corner, behind Gianni Morbidelli.

'Jacques has been like a lion in a cage all weekend, just waiting to break out'

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Michael Schumacher made quick escape

| Driver | Australia | Spain | France | Germany | Italy | USA | UK | Germany | Points |
|------------------|-----------|-------|--------|---------|-------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| 1. Hakkinen | 10 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 76 |
| 2. M. Schumacher | 4 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 66 |
| 3. Coulthard | 6 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 42 |
| 4. Irvine | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 32 |
| 5. Wurz | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 27 |
| 6. Villeneuve | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 16 |
| 7. Fisichella | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 8. Frentzen | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 9. R. Schumacher | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| 10. Hill | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| 11. Salo | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 12. Hill | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 13. Hill | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 14. Hill | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 15. Hill | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 16. Magnussen | | | | | | | | | 1 |

Jubilant Evans sets up thrilling finale

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GWYNDAF EVANS won the Stena Line Ulster Rally to ensure that he will start the final round of the Mobil 1 British rally championship next month level on points with Martin Rowe, from the Isle of Man.

Evans, the Seat driver, and Rowe, in a Renault, both have 153 points with only the Isle of Man event remaining. Evans came home 54sec ahead of Rowe with a time of 2hr 52min 15sec for the 19-stage event.

1998 HOLLAND GRAND PRIX AT MONZA
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Corser and Edwards claim wins

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

COLIN EDWARDS, of the Castrol Honda team, and Troy Corser, the Ducati rider, won a race each in the ninth round of the world superbike championship at Brands Hatch yesterday.

Edwards, of the United States, took the lead on the fifth lap of the opening 25-lap race and held on to it in front of a record of 82,000. Aaron Slight, his team-mate, was second, ahead of Scott Russell, the Yamaha rider.

"That was a hard race for me, but if you are going to win a race, then this is the place to do it," Edwards said. "The crowd is awesome."

Corser won the second race, leading from start to finish, just ahead of Carl Fogarty, from Blackburn. Jamie Whitham, the British Suzuki rider, was third and Edwards fourth.

Consistent Rydell tightens hold on championship

BY A CORRESPONDENT

RICKARD RYDELL'S chief title rivals in the Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Anthony Reid and Alain Menu, shared the victory spoils yesterday at Thruxton, but a pair of third-place finishes for the Swede in his Volvo ensured that he increased his championship lead.

Rydell is 45 points ahead of Menu, the reigning champion, who drives a Renault, with only eight races remaining. In the manufacturers' championship, Nissan lead Renault by four points, with Volvo slipping to third.

Reid's sprint race victory was similar to his Snetterton triumph of the previous Sunday, except that he won from second on the grid, blasting past Rydell, who started in pole position but made a poor start. Menu, recovered from his high-speed testing accident on Friday, put his Renault ahead of Rydell at Cobb.

Behind them, there was chaos as the Vauxhall of Mark Lemmer collided with the Ford of Craig Baird. The latter car was badly damaged



Menu: masterful display

GERMAN GRAND PRIX RESULT
 1. Mika Hakkinen (Fin) McLaren Mercedes 1hr 20min 47.984sec; 2. David Coulthard (GB) McLaren Mercedes 1hr 04.275sec; 3. Jacques Villeneuve (Can) Williams-Motorsport 1hr 02.571sec; 4. Damon Hill (GB) Jordan-Mugen Honda 1hr 02.735sec; 5. Michael Schumacher (Ger) Ferrari 1hr 02.813sec; 6. Ralf Schumacher (Ger) Jordan-Mugen Honda 1hr 02.935sec; 7. Giancarlo Fisichella (It) Benetton-Motorsport 1hr 03.027sec; 8. Eddie Irvine (N Ire) Ferrari 1hr 03.050sec; 9. Heinz-Harald Frentzen (Ger) Williams-Motorsport 1hr 03.785sec; 10. Jean Alesi (Fr) Sauber-Petronas 1hr 04.472sec; 11. Alexander Wurz (Aust) Benetton-Motorsport 1hr 04.595sec; 12. Jarno Trulli (It) Prost-Peugeot 1hr 04.610sec; 13. Tommaso Lucchinetti (It) Prost-Peugeot 1hr 04.610sec; 14. Mika Salo (Fin) Arrows 1hr 04.610sec; 15. Olivier Panis (Fr) Prost-Peugeot 1hr 04.610sec; 16. Jos Verstappen (Hol) Stewart 1hr 04.610sec; 17. Jacques Villeneuve (Can) Williams-Motorsport 1hr 04.610sec; 18. 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CRICKET

Sri Lankans get to grips with Tufnell

BY JOHN THICKESSE

LORDS (third day of four): Middlesex with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 12 runs ahead of the Sri Lankans

ONE of this summer's rare days of sunshine should have encouraged a bigger audience yesterday than the 2,000 or so who turned out to watch the Sri Lankans. Thanks to a second-wicket stand of 61 in their second innings, Middlesex finished reasonably well placed to pick up the £2,750 on offer for a draw from Vodafone, the sponsors, though on a slow, true pitch the £11,000 prize for winning ought to be beyond them.

The innings of the day, beyond question, was played by Ramesh Kaluwitharana. 28, the Sri Lanka wicket-keeper, whose 73, made from 84 balls, contained 14 fours, many of them hit with memorable strokes of boldness and power.

Middlesex still had hopes of a first-innings lead when Kaluwitharana, who is built along the lines of Smil Gavaskar, the prolific India captain of the 1960s, arrived after 35 minutes with his side 237 for five. By brilliantly adding 97 in 72 minutes with favourable conditions, Kaluwitharana saw to it that the touring side made good use of favourable conditions.

Kaluwitharana wasted no time showing how he intended to play, getting off the mark with a square cut off Johnson that passed within four feet of cover before the fielder had begun to move, and following with a searing short-arm hook for another four.

Even Tufnell could not hold him. England's temporarily discarded slow left-hander had looked capable of earning Middlesex a handy lead on the resumption at 214 for four, beating Jayawardene with a ball which turned so much that it would have gone for byes but for Langer intercepting it at slip.

In his sixth over he outwitted the left-handed

Tillekeratne, who within minutes of on-driving for four from down the pitch, was caught at short mid-on trying to repeat the stroke. Tufnell, who then had three for 46, was to finish with three for 90 but deserved better.

Kaluwitharana had a careful look at him before springing from his crease to crack two drives between mid-wicket and mid-on. It had the makings of an epic encounter.

But the new ball was claimed and Kaluwitharana was out without Tufnell being able to get at him again, although it took a perfectly pitched outswinger from Johnson to remove him.

If that sixth-wicket partnership was by some way the most entertaining passage of the day, the Sri Lankans demonstrated, by adding 90 for the last four wickets, a depth of batting that foreshadowed much hard work for England at the Oval later in the month. Hathurusinghe, one of their four seamers, proved an obdurate No 8, batting for 100 minutes before Bait, left-arm over the wicket, had him leg-before for 20.

Bait, 21, took his tally of wickets to 21 in five games with yesterday's four for 103 but Bloomfield again looked the likeliest of Middlesex's young seamers.

Although Middlesex lost Goodchild, Friday's century-maker, in Pushpakumara's fourth over, there was little danger of a collapse for Nash at once recaptured the initiative by making the touring side pay for leaving the third-man boundary open.

Kettleborough, fighting to win back the place he lost a month ago, had a nasty moment when he was adjudged caught at gully off a deflection that bounced about halfway between the batsman and the fielder.

The decision was reversed, but Kettleborough failed to take advantage. Shaping to hook Villavaranan, he was beaten for pace and edged to the wicketkeeper.



Walsh plays one of the many fine strokes that helped him to a century and Old Tonbridgians to victory

Walsh displays county credentials

ROEHAMPTON (Rugby Metors won toss): Old Tonbridgians beat Rugby Metors by seven wickets

THE Cricketer Cup is the most exciting form of the amateur game. The 32nd final of a competition that was dreamt up over a bottle of port and has a new sponsor in Liberty Mutual, was won yesterday by Old Tonbridgians, whose opening batsman, Chris Walsh, made an unbeaten 105 on one of the true pitches that are to be found at the Bank of England ground. They were altogether too much for Rugby Metors, for whom Richard Montgomery, of Northamptonshire, made 80.

Why does Tonbridge School nurture so many fine cricketers? No doubt it has much to do with the Cowdrey family having gone there. The pitches on the Head, as the first XI ground is called, are lovingly tended. There is a strong tradition of old boys' cricket, as evidenced by their record of winning this competition eight times, and any number of Tonbridgians have gone on to the Kent staff. The two batsmen who won this match, Walsh, son of a master, and Jamie Ford, who made 70, are both looking to have a career with the county.

Colin Cowdrey and his eldest son, Christopher, are two of six Test captains to have taken part. His youngest son, Graham, would have played yesterday had he not selflessly given up his place. "If I had spent all week working in a bank, I would have been pretty chuffed off if a professional had taken my position," he said. The middle Cowdrey son, Jeremy, found before he went into the City, that cricket was taken so seriously at Tonbridge that he was made

Ivo Tennant sees the Tonbridge tradition upheld in the final of the Cricketer Cup

The great wandering clubs such as I Zingari and Stragglers of Asia, are concerned that there might be an increase in the number of old boys' sides who participate each year — there are 32 at present — for they find that raising players is hard enough as it is. That will not happen, to the chagrin of the likes of King's, Canterbury (David Gower's old school) and Eastbourne College.

Each year, the president of MCC presents the Cup. Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, who arrived after lunching with Sir Paul Getty, admitted: "When I was a boy at Eton, Tonbridge beat us every time."

The prize for the winners is a dinner at the Café Royal in October. The whole occasion was resonant of style and tradition, and that, in a fast-changing game, made it a day to be treasured.

SCORES: Rugby Metors 234-8 (R. Montgomery 81, C. Cowdrey 61, Old Tonbridgians 235-3 (C. Walsh 105 not out, J. Ford 70).

Smith saves the day as Lara suffers again

BY PAUL GIBSON

EDGBASTON (final day of four): Warwickshire (pts) draw with Glamorgan (7)

FOUR years ago, no captain in his right mind would have set Warwickshire a victory target of 290 in a minimum of 75 overs, not with Brian Lara in the side. Yesterday, Matthew Maynard, of Glamorgan, did it with impunity to provide a graphic illustration of how Lara has failed to inspire his side this season.

Ironically, Lara was saved from another embarrassing defeat — and doubtless, more abuse from disillusioned Warwickshire members — by an undefeated 72 from Neil Smith, one of the men whom they would have preferred as captain.

It would be wrong to blame Lara for all of Warwickshire's problems but their biggest one was encapsulated in his own hour-long innings, which showed what a tormented soul he has become.

He had an ideal chance to reassert himself when a match that had been bedevilled by the weather became an intriguing contest on the final day. Warwickshire declared at their overnight 135 for four. Glamorgan, reprobated by declaring at 109 for one, stashed off only 19 overs, and, presumably, Lara had the challenge he wanted.

Things were soon going wrong. Glamorgan are without Watkin, their most reliable bowler because of a side strain, but Davies, playing in his first Britannic Assurance

county championship match for three years, bowled Knight off an inside edge with his fourth ball.

Powell and Wagh then put on 60 so that when Thomas had Powell leg-before, Lara had a decent platform. What followed was agonising to watch for those who had marvelled at his record-breaking feats in 1994.

He was close to being leg-before offering no stroke to Croft before he had scored; he was struck painfully in the box by a ball from Thomas that was just too quick for him; and he almost played on to Croft when he was on one.

Then, after struggling to 22 off 51 balls, he made room to cut his first delivery from Cooker, a young left-arm spinner he had never faced before, played the shot too early and was mortified to see it turn gently to hit his off-stump. Lara left to ironic cheers, which were not so much mocking him as welcoming the appearance of Smith, who had been promoted in the batting order.

Thomas, striving manfully to make up for the loss of Watkin, kept surprising the batsmen with his deceptive pace, which brought him five for 84, but Smith, hitting his 72 off only 104 balls with a six and seven fours, had even opened up the prospect of a remarkable victory when the loss of Giles persuaded him to settle for a draw. By a final irony Muntun, deposed as captain by Lara, helped him do it.

SCOREBOARD FROM EDGBASTON

Table with columns for Glamorgan First Innings, Warwickshire First Innings, Glamorgan Second Innings, and Warwickshire Second Innings. Includes scores, wickets, and bowling figures.

Lancashire pull out all the stops to go joint top

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire (4pts) beat Leicestershire by 20 runs

BOWLING straight, and fielding superbly, Lancashire gained a magnificent victory yesterday to join Essex as joint leaders of the Axa League. Leicestershire needed 54 from the last ten overs, and had eight wickets in hand. From that position they might think they could not possibly lose, but, like many teams before them, they found the task of winning at this ground beyond them.

It was an astonishing performance by Lancashire, whose score of 183 for seven appeared a good one, though not absolutely formidable. In the end they owed much to Fairbrother, who was playing his first game for three weeks since he trod on the ball at Lytham. The left-hander came in with the score on seven for two and batted through the remaining 35 overs. His undefeated 82 arrived off 98 balls.

When Leicestershire replied Wells played splendidly for his 49 but Simmonds, normally the most free-scoring of batsmen, was oddly becalmed. When he was the second man out, in the 28th over, he had accumulated only 27. Having conceded 33 runs from his last two overs, he had a thin time of it all round.

Even so, Leicestershire were clearly the favourites so long as Smith was at the crease. It was essential that Westin struck immediately when he returned with ten overs left, and he did. Smith chipped a catch to mid-on, and after that Lancashire refused to let the new batsman settle. Austin bowled a wicket maiden, the 15th of the innings, and in the next over, Martin took three wickets.

Maddy perished second ball. Dalvin was caught behind two balls later and, next ball, Williamson was leg-before. All three made ducks. Lancashire had broken the back of the innings.

Kent are punished by majestic Cassar

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

DERBY (Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire (4pts) beat Kent by eight wickets

A FLURRY of boundaries from Matthew Cassar hastened Derbyshire's victory with 51 overs to spare on a rare sunlit afternoon when the county awarded caps to Kevin Dean, their left-arm seam bowler, and Michael Slater, the Australia batsman.

Cassar, who made a maiden Axa League hundred the previous week, reproduced his lavish strokeplay by scoring 65 not out, at a run a ball. His innings included two successive sixes off Long, and seven fours. Kent, who used eight bowlers, suffered their third consecutive defeat, having laboured to 155 for eight.

Initial problems against Dean and Cork plunged Kent into a crisis at 57 for five from which they partially recovered through the influence of Eastham. House, who topped the list with 38, and Martin. The key dismissal was that of Hooper, caught at the wicket

right-handed by the lunging Krikken. He enhanced his contribution by stumping House, while Eastham and Fleming were both well caught at extra cover after playing powerful, skimming drives. Dean, who took a hat-trick on Saturday, had bowled Ward, on the back foot, with his sixth ball.

The best Kent partnership was worth 41 between Fleming and House, which paled alongside the unbroken, match-winning stand of 99 involving Cassar and Barnett, who made a stuporous 46 not out from 95 balls.

Cassar, Australia-born, qualified for England last year and at 25, is developing into a mature batsman with a varied range of strokes. Two successive fours off McCague illustrated his burgeoning confidence. Eastham had induced Slater to play on and Weston was caught short mid-wicket but Cassar and Barnett took control to bring their team's first win over Kent in the competition for five years.

Nottinghamshire fail to provide serious test

BY RICHARD HOBSON

TRENT BRIDGE (Northamptonshire won toss): Northamptonshire (4pts) beat Nottinghamshire by five wickets

THE highly-charged, evenly-contested encounter between Allan Donald and Michael Atherton on the same pitch seven days earlier seemed almost another sport entirely, as Northamptonshire progressed to an Axa League victory with only brief discomfiture.

For Jason Gallian it made a lean introduction to his first full game as the new Nottinghamshire captain. After losing an important toss, his side capitulated to 115 for seven in the 24th over and despite some plucky scrambling by Evans and Read the total of 154 for eight did not provide much of a test.

Nottinghamshire seemed unsure of what represented a good score on a difficult surface, thus remaining in contention for a place in the first division next season.

and batsmen lost their wickets attempting big strokes. Nottinghamshire have now lost all six 40-over games at Trent Bridge this season, so the problem is clearly deep-rooted.

Loye and Bailey adopted a more disciplined approach when Northamptonshire began their reply. It helped that they only had to budget for four runs an over. They scored 74 in 22 overs before Bailey swept Bates to deep square leg, and Curran out to backward point after a breezy 23.

When Loye offered a return catch to Bates for 43 the innings threatened to stum, particularly with Warren, the wicketkeeper, suffering a depressed fracture of the right cheekbone after being hit while standing up to Snape. By now, Northamptonshire needed merely to place the ball between the gaps in the field to steer them towards the four points, thus remaining in contention for a place in the first division next season.

Depth of batting takes Hampshire to victory

BY RUPERT COX

SOUTHAMPTON (Durham won toss): Hampshire (4pts) beat Durham by seven wickets

ONLY a year ago, the wicket of Robin Smith would have signalled a sharp decline in Hampshire fortunes, but the promotion of Adrian Aymes has added a new resolution to their middle order. Yesterday, at Northlands Road, Aymes and Giles White, with an unbroken stand of 118 after Smith's dismissal, calmly saw the home team to victory.

It has not been the easiest of seasons for Jonathan Lewis. Durham dropped him for the Britannic Assurance county championship encounter — his first demotion since his move from Essex. But he responded, with an excellent unbeaten 67 to help prevent a mid-innings collapse.

John Morris had pulled Cardigan Cornor to deep square-leg, allowing the bowler to become Hampshire's greatest Sunday wicket-taker, passing Trevor Jesty's haul of 237. Though David Boon and Nick Speak added 64 in 13 overs, the loss of three wickets in four overs gave Lewis scope to impress.

Given a helping hand by Paul Collingwood, Lewis batted with an abandon that yielded six fours and one six from 57 balls, laying the foundation for Durham's highest Axa League score of the season.

However, once Jason Laney had chopped Melvyn Bets onto his stumps in the first over of Hampshire's reply, John Stephenson and Smith took the Durham attack apart. Their 110-run stand was marked by fierce strokeplay as Smith cut and Stephenson drove imperiously, the latter's third consecutive Axa League fifty coming in 55 balls, before both batsmen fell to Neil Killeen.

Moody exit opens up door for Yorkshire

BY JOHN STERN

WORCESTER (Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire (4pts) beat Worcestershire by 34 runs

TOM MOODY might be able to stomach being bowled by McGrath if he was playing against New South Wales in the Sheffield Shield. However, when the bowler in question is not Glenn, of Australia, but Anthony, of Yorkshire, who had not bowled in the Axa League until last week, it must be hard to take.

The departure of Moody, the Worcestershire captain, for 47 started a collapse of eight wickets for 33 runs, thus allowing Yorkshire to arrest a sequence of three consecutive Axa League defeats.

At 135 for two, with Moody and Graeme Hick at the crease, Worcestershire were well placed to reach their target but their innings followed a similar pattern to that of Yorkshire, who ought to have set a total in the region of 230 or 240 but finished on 202 for nine, having lost seven wickets for 39.

Darren Lehmann, Moody's compatriot who scored a double hundred in the Britannic Assurance county championship match, was influential with both bat and ball. Lehmann's partnership with Matthew Wood yielded 111 for the third wicket before Wood was caught at long-off off the excellent Lampitt.

Lehmann, whose innings included a straight six off Rawnsley, the left-arm spinner, himself was fourth out in the next over for 59 from 54 balls. Chapman took the last four wickets to fall, having bowled Byas with the first ball of the match. Lehmann came on to bowl his left-arm spin in the 21st over and, in his third over, he induced Hick to mistime a pull straight to Byas at short mid-wicket. He also had Leatherdale caught in the same position six overs later. Nothing went right for Worcestershire after that and Cough finished the game off with four wickets for four runs in 11 balls.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Large table containing multiple scoreboards for various cricket matches, including team names, scores, wickets, and bowling figures.

Advertisement for Williamson's Shining Floorboards, featuring the text 'Williamson's Shining Floorboards' and 'Confidence'.

England selectors stand by Surrey leg spinner for the deciding Test at Headingley

Familiar frailties leave Cork facing threat of exclusion

By Alan Lee

FOUR games into a Test match comeback founded on selectorial faith and desperation in equal measures, Dominic Cork is facing the prospect of becoming a reluctant onlooker once again when the series against South Africa is resolved at Headingley this week. Cork was named yesterday in a squad predictably unaltered from the eventual XI at Trent Bridge. However, Alan Mullally, the man omitted before that game, is thought likely to play in Leeds and, unless pitch conditions sustain the notion of an all-seam attack, Cork would be the one to make way.

ENGLAND XII

Table with columns: Name, Age, Caps. Lists players like M.A. Atherton, M.A. Butler, M. Hussey, etc.

Fraser and Darren Gough, that England covered for so long. To break up this attack after two games together — one heroically drawn, the other stirring win — is one of those decisions from which weak selectors would discreetly withdraw. However, there is a single-mindedness about the men managing the England team and it is not to be underestimated. Only an hour after victory in Nottingham, David Lloyd, the coach, was saying that he "would not be averse to changes" for a Headingley game that has "particular characteristics". He may have had in mind a switch to four seam bowlers. More likely, he was contemplating the inclusion of Mullally.



A fire brigade officer tests the depth of water on the Chelmsford pitch before helping ground staff to clear it. Play started at 2pm

Maynard emerges as rival for Hollis

By Alan Lee

ADAM HOLLIS may captain the England one-day team again before the end of the year, despite the conflicting evidence of his omission from another representative side, named yesterday. Hollis does not feature in a Counties Select XI to play South Africa at Headingley, two days after the final Test, but the make-up of the side is a cue to the management's thinking regarding a dilemma of priorities, late in October. Like every other Test-playing nation, England are obliged to send a team to Bangladesh for a limited-overs "knockout" event in aid of the International Cricket Council's development plans. However, the tournament coincides with the start of England's Ashes tour and presents obvious difficulties in selection.

obvious candidate to lead the side in Bangladesh. That he may face competition is plain, however, from the naming of Matthew Maynard, of Glamorgan, to lead the Select XI. David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said: "Matthew is a good captain and this was an ideal opportunity to see what he could do." Despite a disappointing summer with Surrey, the younger Hollis, Ben, is in a team that is an interesting mix of established members of the one-day squad and fringe players who may yet claim a place when the World Cup party is finalised at the end of the year. Prominent in this group is Mark Alayne, the underrated captain of Gloucestershire, Ronnie Kraus and Paul Grayson, the Essex all-rounder, and Ed Giddins, the Warwickshire seam bowler. Only one member of the side, Martin Bicknell, was not included in England's provisional World Cup squad and he has forced his case by weight of wickets.

Donald and Pollock pass tests

By Barney Spender

ON A day when rain guaranteed a tame ending to this Vodafone Challenge match, the South Africans could at least take comfort from the fact that their two key fast bowlers passed tests of differing natures in their preparation for this week's deciding Test match at Headingley. On the field, Shaun Pollock, who has been distinctly off-form since a thigh injury kept him out of the third Test at Old Trafford, produced a bristling spell of fast bowling, while, off it, Allan Donald did the rounds of Chelmsford clinics to come up with a clean bill of health. Donald, who set his game out, had another scan, his fourth of the summer, on his troublesome left foot on Saturday. Then, yesterday, he reported to a local clinic for blood tests to check up on his uric acid levels — such is the burden of gout. In both cases, he came through without a problem and he will resume his battle with Michael Atherton in Leeds. If that is good news for the tour party, then the return to form of Pollock is also something to celebrate. He trod gingerly at Trent Bridge, almost as if he did not trust his body after injury, and there

may again be limited to specialist substitute slip.

conditions. "We just have to ask, can a fourth or fifth seamer do a better job for you than a spinner?" Cronje said. "We will get a better idea when we see the pitch, but we will only make a decision when we see the overhead conditions." That suggested that South Africa may be tempted to go into the game with Donald and Pollock supported by Jacques Kallis and two of Makhaya Ntini, Steve Elworthy and Brian McMillan. On the evidence of this game and his contribution on tour so far, McMillan looks to be the likeliest to miss out. He bowled just four overs in the Essex innings, which, combined with the fact that the 29 he made in the South Africans' first innings was his highest first-class score of the season, suggests that he

That play was able to start at 2pm was an achievement in itself, although the cricket that followed was largely academic, which was a shame for a patient crowd. The idea of abandoning it and playing a 40-overs match was apparently mooted but dismissed and the possibility of a couple of declarations followed by an Essex run chase never materialised. It would have been a stiff challenge for Essex, who would have needed 305 in 58 overs, and may have petered out into a lame draw anyway, but it just might have produced a more competitive afternoon's cricket. Hodgson made a career-best 46 before unwisely leaving a straight ball from Pollock that hit his off stump. Otherwise, only Barry Hyam and Mark Ilett, who hit Syncox for two sixes, made any impression. Cronje chose not to enforce the follow-on, preferring to give Gary Kirsten and Gerry Liebenberg a gentle net in the middle. It will be very different at Leeds on Thursday.

Smith saves day as Lara suffers again

Smith takes Mod to victory

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SATURDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table with columns: Match, Innings, Runs, Wickets. Includes Britannic Assurance county championship, Derbyshire v Kent, Hampshire v Durham, etc.

Saqlain's variety casting spells

The 1990s will be remembered as the decade when wrist spin resasserted itself in international cricket. To see children flipping leg breaks on the outfield of county grounds is to recognise the impact of Shane Warne and Mushtaq Ahmed. Just as leg spinners were all but extinct 15 years ago, the danger now is that the art of off spin might be lost. For the sake of balance, then, it is timely that the two prime exponents of twirl in England this summer are both off spinners.



Richard Hobson

Assurance county championship for the first time since 1971, then Saqlain Mushtaq will have played a significant role. Match figures of 11 for 104 facilitated victory by an innings and 69 runs against Sussex on Saturday, despite an unbeaten 99 from Chris Adams. Saqlain now has 50 wickets for the season and talk of a mystery ball has stimulated much dressing-room chatter. To be successful, off spinners must be able to disguise the arm ball, the one that goes straight on after pitching instead of turning to leg. However, Saqlain has also mastered a delivery that turns from leg to off with no discernible change in action. It is a formidable weapon that John Embury, the Northamptonshire coach, believes makes Saqlain unique among finger spinners in his 25 years as a professional. Jack Iverson enjoyed fleeting fame for a vast array of deliveries spun off a long, bent middle finger. However, after considerable success against Freddie Brown's England side in 1950-51, he soon became disenchanted and left the game. John Gleeson, another Australian, imitated

Bridge. Kevin Dean, the improving Derbyshire left-arm seamer, took a hat-trick of Ed Smith, Hooper and Long against Kent, who are nine runs ahead with five second-innings wickets remaining. Durham rallied in the second innings against Hampshire, but their lead is a mere 95 with a single wicket outstanding and a fourth successive defeat awaits. Worcestershire, following on 254 in arrears, have already lost Weston and Wilson in cutting the deficit to 235 against Yorkshire. A traumatic week for Brian Lara, the Warwickshire captain, ended when he was out for 15, caught at leg gully, in the rain-affected game against Glamorgan.

Advertisement for GLOSER STILL featuring a large stylized 'X' logo.

Parnevik bounces back after missing Open goal



Parnevik: three clear

IT WAS a scene he had walked through before, the one in which he strides up the final fairway to the thunderous applause of a supportive audience. This time, however, he was marching to victory before his home crowd, not negotiating the final few yards of an Open Championship having been involved in another glorious failure.

For Jesper Parnevik, this was almost as good as it could get. Three times, he has had his chance to win an Open: three times, he has fallen agonisingly short, most recently only a fortnight ago at Royal Birkdale.

His record in the Volvo Scandinavian Masters is very different. He won the event in 1995 and yesterday, at Kungsängen, near Stockholm, he won it again, this time collecting £133,330 after a

closing round of 70 for a total of 273, 11 under par.

This was a triumphant parade of Parnevik's skill, power and precision, but most of all, it was a classic example of his powers of adhesion. With the trademark upturned brim on his cap and his drainpipe trousers, Parnevik's appearance may be as eccentric as might be expected from the son of Sweden's most popular comedian, but there is nothing remotely flippant about the way that he plays golf.

When he is in the sort of mood that enveloped him here, he can be a remorseless opponent and nobody knew that more on this day than Darren Clarke. The Ulsterman, who, by this morning, may be a father — Heather, his wife, entered hospital in Northern Ire-

Mel Webb sees a Swedish favourite enjoy some well-deserved consolation

land last night for the birth of their first child — did everything he could to close the gap, but for the second week running, he fell short.

Last week, he was beaten by a stroke in the Dutch Open by Stephen Leaney; this time, he started two strokes behind Parnevik and finished three adrift.

Stephen Field, a career journeyman from Barnsley, who was a stroke astern of Clarke in third place, birdied the last two holes to make sure of his player's card for next season by winning £50,070.

Clarke won £88,880 to move into second place in the European order of merit behind Lee Westwood, his friend and managerial stablemate, but it was scant consolation as he looked back wistfully on a day on which Parnevik always held the upper hand.

"I had my chances on the front nine, but didn't take them and every time I came back at Jesper, he responded," he said. "I shouldn't be disappointed with two seconds running, but I am. I just couldn't get any momentum going. That's three seconds this year — it would be nice to convert one into a win."

The key to Parnevik's victory was his consistency. Although margin-

ally less steady than he had been the day before, when he had had 16 pars, one birdie and one bogey, he again held his nerve, despite signs of occasional misbehaviour from his putter. He had already had two three-puts on the outward half when he birdied the par-five 9th with two putts from 60ft and followed Clarke's 25th birdie on the 11th with one of his own from 20ft on the 12th.

With the tournament long since having resolved itself into the realms of the classic head-to-head of matchplay, the gap between these two men of such contrasting appearance — Clarke sturdy as a second-row forward, Parnevik as thin as a pared-down toothpick — was at its widest on the 459-yard 13th, when Clarke missed the green with his second stroke and then

failed to hole a 10ft putt for par. Parnevik led by four at that point and, after Clarke had picked up a shot at the 14th and both players had birdied the 15th, the tournament was finally won and lost on the short 16th.

Here, Clarke missed the green and, after managing to get his recovery to 4ft, lipped out with the putt to save his par. Fifteen minutes later, Parnevik could enjoy the luxury of bogeying the last in front of a 30,000 crowd of his adoring compatriots.

He raised his arms in triumph, then fished out a huge, Churchillian cigar from the depths of his bag, for which Clarke, ever the gentleman, provided the means of ignition. Victory had never tasted as good — the ice man, at long last, had caught fire.

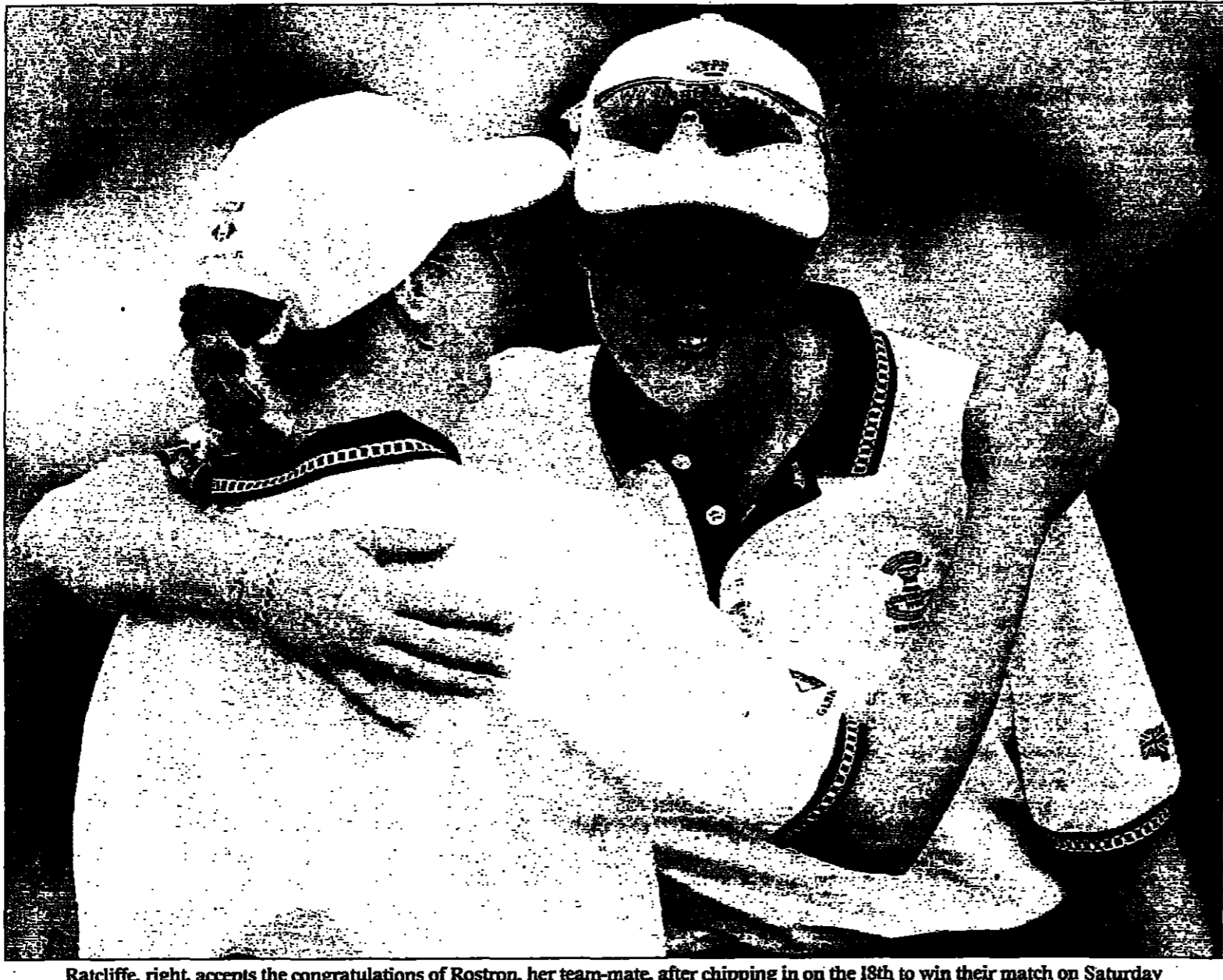
United States close on Curtis Cup victory for first time in eight years

Defeat in prospect for Butler's band

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN MINNEAPOLIS

GREAT Britain and Ireland faced defeat in the Curtis Cup here at the Minikahda Club for the first time since 1990. After winning the morning foursomes 2-1 yesterday, the United States needed only two points from the afternoon's six singles to secure its first victory for eight years.

Ira Butler, the Britain and Ireland captain, had been delighted on Saturday night at the way the first day had ended with only two points separating the teams. "We finished on a high note," Butler said. "At one point, we were not in it." Then, as she disappeared into the night,



Ratcliffe, right, accepts the congratulations of Rostrom, her team-mate, after chipping in on the 18th to win their match on Saturday

DETAILS

Great Britain and Ireland names first FOURSOMES: Saturday: A. Roston and E. Ratcliffe to B. Bauer and J. Chusiariporn 1 up, A. Sapples and F. Brown to K. Smith and B. Coles Kuehn 2 and 1, A. Rose and B. Morgan to H. Burke and V. Detry Grimes 2 and 2, Y. Kashiwagi, R. Rose and M. Morgan to Booth and C. Kuehn 6 and 5, B. Brown and R. Hudson to Bauer and Chusiariporn 2 up, Roston and Ratcliffe lost to Burke and Grimes 2 and 1.

SINGLES: Roston lost to Booth 2 and 1; Rose lost to Kuehn 3 and 2, Chusiariporn tied with Hudson, H. Morgan lost to Bauer 5 and 3, Morgan to B. Roston 2 and 1, Ratcliffe to C. Sapples-Thompson 3 and 2. MATCH SCORE: United States 7½, Great Britain and Ireland 4½.

she said, sotto voce: "We can do it now. It won't take much. We can swing it."

However, when the United States captured the first and third of the three morning foursomes, Butler's optimism appeared misplaced. For Britain and Ireland to retain the trophy that had been won comfortably at Killarney in 1996, the team needed to win 4½ points from the six afternoon singles, a task that was not impossible but was highly unlikely.

Yet, as they ate lunch in the white two-storey clubhouse at this Donald Ross-designed course, Britain and Ireland could take some heart from the performance of Fiona Brown and Rebecca Hudson. The newcomers defeated Beth Bauer, the youngest member of the United States team, and Jenny Chusiariporn, by some way technically the best player in the home side, on the 18th green.

Brown and Hudson took the lead at the 1st, when Brown holed from 8ft, and were three-up after the 7th and again after the 15th, where the Americans took three putts from the fringe. Hudson, in particular, seemed to be walking on air.

"There is a fine line between confidence and arrogance and she does not overstep it," Stephen Cooper, the teaching professional at Gainsborough Golf Club and Hudson's coach, said.

Bauer and Chusiariporn got one hole back when Hudson and Brown three-putted the 16th and another when Bauer hit a nine-iron from 100 yards to 5ft on the 17th. But the nerves of the visitors were the stronger on the 18th, when the United States conceded the hole to give Britain and Ireland victory by two holes.

Chusiariporn had not looked at her best and this was her second loss in foursomes. Barbara McIntyre, the Americans' captain, took the brave decision of dropping her from the afternoon singles.

Kelley Booth and Brenda Kuehn quickly disposed of Alison Rose and Becky Morgan, though they lost the 1st hole. "That's when you say patience is virtue," Kuehn said. "There were still 17 holes left and a lot of golf to play."

The Americans played to such effect that they were three-up after the 8th, went five-up when the visiting pair three-putted the 12th and then won on the 13th. The winning stroke was played by Kuehn, a

nine-iron from 114 yards that stopped 8ft from the flag.

Virginia Grimes, partnering Robin Burke, the wife of Jackie Burke, the 1956 Masters and USPGA winner, did most of the damage to Elaine Ratcliffe and Kim Roston. Grimes holed birdie putts from 10ft on the 1st and 12ft on the 4th.

The moment this match was

settled probably came at the 15th. Ratcliffe played a fine second shot from beneath the shade of some trees, the ball pitching well short of the green and running on to the putting surface. Roston's mistake was to leave the 35ft putt 5ft short. Ratcliffe missed it and the Americans were two-up again.

There are three truisms of amateur team matches such as the Curtis and Walker Cups. The first is keep the ball in play. In the Walker Cup last summer, one lost count of the number of times that members of the Britain and Ireland team missed the fairway from the tee and lost the hole.

The second is to play the course, not the opponent. It is surprising how often par golf

is good enough to bring a victory at this level. The third is to keep fighting right to the end.

To their credit, Britain and Ireland appeared to have taken notice of all these pieces of advice on Saturday. They did not look overawed at the start of the match and nor were they any less accurate than their opponents. Furthermore, two of the first day's 3½ points and one of the second day's foursomes were won by resolute finishing.

McIntyre was asked what differences she saw between the teams from Britain and Ireland of the 1970s and those of the late 1990s. "The swings are much better and the putting is terrific," McIntyre, the winner of the 1964 British Amateur championship when it was held at Harlech, replied.

"I think that, after 1982, they got together and decided they were tired of what was happening — and I don't blame them. They have done a fine job of doing something about it."



Chusiariporn, of the United States, and Ratcliffe had disappointing mornings yesterday



Ratcliffe, of the United States, and Roston had disappointing mornings yesterday

Davies slips eight shots behind as Burton fires new record

LAURA DAVIES, of Great Britain, looks to have lost her chance of victory at the du Maurier Classic in Canada, the final major of the LPGA season. After a third round of 70, two under par, Davies was left eight shots adrift of Brandie Burton, the leader, who went three clear of the field after a 66 put her on -18 under par for the tournament.

Annika Sorenstam, of Sweden, and Meg Mallon, of the United States, both shot 67 to head the chasing pack.

Davies is one of six women tied for ninth on 206 after she failed to build on opening rounds of 69 and 67. Next among the British players was Lisa Hackney, at eight under par, after a 71.

Mhairi McKay, of Scotland, made some progress with a 69 to go into the final day on -210, along with Catriona Matthew, who slipped to -74 after two earlier rounds of 68.

Burton, just 21 when she won the du Maurier in 1993, set a 54-hole tournament record of 198. The previous best mark was 200 set by Ayako Okamoto, of Japan, in 1987.

"My putter has been very nice to me the past three days," Burton said. "I just need it to hold on for 18 more holes."

It will have to. Those trying to chase her down at the Essex Golf and Country Club have all proved that they can handle the pressure of the final round of a major championship. Mallon, a former US LPGA Championship and US Open winner, and Sorenstam, playing her best golf since winning her second consecutive US Women's Open in 1996, are well within range of challenging her.

"You want to beat the best in the world and the best are here. It's much more gratifying to win a tournament that way," Mallon said, having had a share of the lead three times in the third round before Burton pulled away.

"It's going to be quite a shootout," Sorenstam said. "I've just got to put it in the highest gear I've got."

Pat Hurst, who won the year's first major, the Dinah Shore, and Betsy King, who needs to win the du Maurier to complete the women's grand slam, were five strokes back at 203. King, scored 70 in the third round and Hurst 71.

Lora Fairclough held off a late charge from Joanne Morley to win the German Open at Treudenberg yesterday. Fairclough, 28, of Lancashire, shot 74 for a ten-under-par total of 282.

Late rally enables Estes to keep tabs on Price

BOB ESTES recorded four birdies over the final six holes to draw level with Nick Price for the lead after three rounds of the St Jude Classic in Memphis, Tennessee.

Estes, of the United States, shot a four-under-par round of 67 to move to 11-under. Price, of Zimbabwe, had a round of 70, four shots more than the best round of the day, which was compiled by Jeff Sluman, also of the United States, who was tied at ten under par with Tim Conley and Paul Azinger. Conley scored a 67, while Azinger recorded a 69.

Kevin Wentworth was two strokes off the pace at 204, while Joe Durant and Glen Day were a stroke further behind. Neal Lancaster, who shared the lead with Price after two rounds, had seven bogeys in a round of 77 that dropped him into a tie for 21st place, on 209.

"I am making the putts," Estes said. "I am getting the ball on line better and my good putts are going in the

middle. My marginal putts sometimes catch the corners and go in."

Estes began with three birdies in the first five holes, but promptly undid his good work with three bogeys before getting back on track with his determined finish. Price drove the ball poorly on the front nine, but solved his problem with a slight grip adjustment and negotiated the back nine in two under par.

John Daly, renowned for his hot temper, had another outburst and was disqualified from the tournament after walking off. Daly was three under par on the front nine before double-bogeying three holes on the way back, including the last two.

He broke his club after going over the green at the 17th and hit his drive at the 18th into the lake, eventually finishing with 74. Daly exchanged scores with Loren Roberts, then walked past the scorers' tent and away from the course without stopping to talk to anyone.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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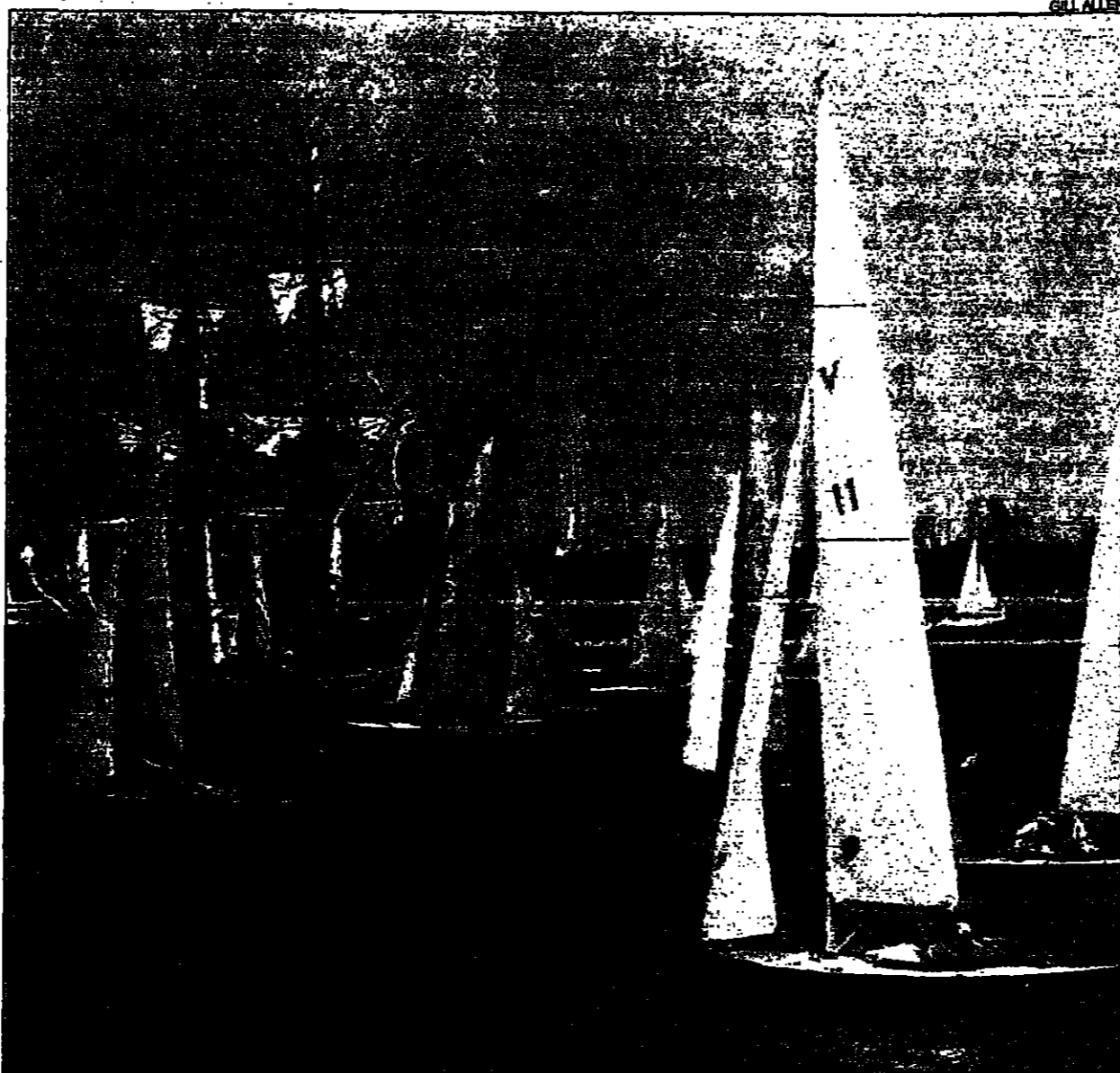
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Poor racing conditions add to waves of discontent at Cowes Week

Williamson is shining light among Sunbeams

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

WATCHING racing at Skandia Life Cowes Week can be a painful business. Yesterday, for the second day in a row, the light or non-existent airs that plagued the regatta last year returned, making life difficult for competitors and race officers alike.



Frustrated skippers wait for the breeze to pick up as their fleet of Sunbeams gather for their race at Cowes yesterday

land shore. This took him into second place, which he held to the finish. Reflecting on his first mark rounding, Badger, who sailed in the Brazil Admiral's Cup team in 1979 and last week claimed three second places in the International 14 European championships, said: "We were very fortunate. Five boats went round together and got swept down with the tide

and we managed to get round inside. We then tacked straight on to starboard, took one short hitch to miss the frigate, and went from fourteenth to second." In other classes over the weekend, the big race, the Queen's Cup for Class 1 and the maxis together, was won by Glynn Williams in the Bashford 41, Wolf with Tony De Mulder's Dubois 37,

TENNIS Henman eases through to meet Agassi

By Our Sports Staff

TIM HENMAN and the former Andre Agassi were lined up to meet in the final of the ATP Mercedes Cup in Los Angeles yesterday after both players won their semi-finals in straight sets. Henman, the No 2 seed, playing in his first tournament since reaching the semi-finals at Wimbledon, overcame an early break in the first set to beat the unseeded Guillaume Raoux, of France, 7-5, 6-3. Agassi, the No 5 seed, won his tenth successive match on the ATP Tour with a 6-0, 7-6 success over his compatriot, Justin Gimelstob, of the United States.



Agassi: playing well

RUGBY LEAGUE: LEEDS A SHADOW OF THEIR FORMER SELVES AS SMALL-TOWN BOYS COME OUT ON TOP IN FULL-BLOODED SUPER LEAGUE ENCOUNTER

Weakened Salford are overrun

A SECOND successive win for Hull Sharks, who beat Salford Reds 26-0 yesterday, revived their hopes of finishing in the top five last left their opponents stranded in the second-from-bottom position in the JJB Super League.

Confident Castleford keep the play-offs in view

Castleford Tigers 22 Leeds Rhinos 16

Saints show poor Giants little mercy

St Helens 68 Huddersfield Giants 18

placed side are a shadow of the team that carried all before them during the first half of the season. Castleford are among a clutch of sides below the top five for whom the play-offs are but a means out of the question. The confidence that stemmed from beating Warrington Wolves in Cardiff was palpable in only their third home win of a season — a campaign that had promised much when they beat Leeds in the Challenge Cup, but has rather faded away since.

resistance and were clearly suffering their own troubles. They are without a coach and may offer the job to McRae. Their heads dropped at the first hint of trouble, which came as early as the eighth minute, when Chris Joynt, the St Helens captain, scored the opening try. Sean Long, who kicked ten goals, and Paul Acheson, who scored three tries, were the men to profit most from Huddersfield's misery.

Hay in the final minute was a sight to behold. The crowd of 8,406 was Castleford's biggest in the Super League. Among all except the Leeds loose forward, was a justified sense of grievance about the opening try by Blackmore, not just for the fact that he once played for the Tigers. A forward pass and knock-on in the build-up eluded the officials.

Weston gave the Giants some comfort, the trickle of tries at the other end became a flood as Damien Smith, Chris Smith, with two, and Acheson, completing his hat-trick, brought St Helens their biggest win of the season.

third try as Castleford always looked to be the more dangerous side. Holtroyd had a try ruled out for a forward pass and Leeds's agony was completed by Smith. Needless to say, white roses were not distributed at the finish.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Table with multiple columns listing sports events for today, tomorrow, and the weekend, including football, rugby league, and other sports.

Advertisement for 'WIN A DAY'S YACHT CHARTER' featuring an image of a sailboat and text describing the competition and contact information.

FOOTBALL: EUROPEAN FLAVOUR OFFERS LITTLE TO SAVOUR IN MODEST MENU AT THE RIVERSIDE

Gillespie transfer adds air of mystery

By George Caulkin

A DESERTED ground, blank television coverage, upwards of £40 for a two-day ticket and six hours of brain-numbing football slapped haphazardly in between all combined to offer the most eloquent argument against any purported European super league.

The JD Sports Cup, held at the Riverside Stadium,

TODAY

Football 98-99



A 16-page guide to the football season with full fixture listings

Middlesbrough, over the weekend, might count only as a distant relation to that much-mooted possibility, but in essence, all the ingredients were there. In practise, it was not conducive to a festival of fun, although the switch of Keith Gillespie, the Northern Ireland international, between two of the participants half-way through proceedings at least created a frisson of excitement.

Of course, if you listen to commentators, then pre-season competitions are not supposed to be fun. "It wasn't a real match," Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle United manager,

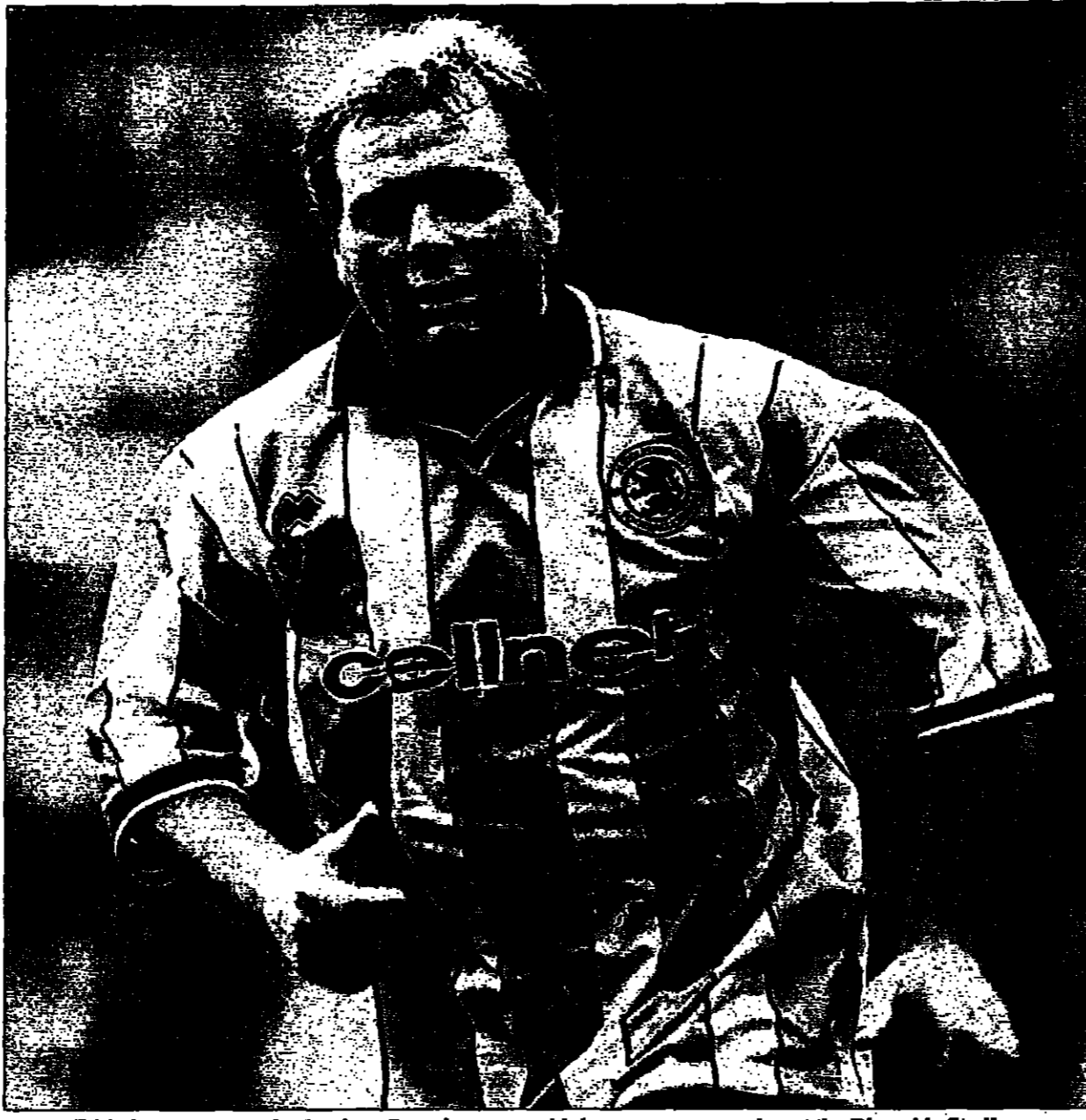
insisted after his side had been beaten on penalties by Benfica on a sporadic Saturday afternoon.

In spite of all that, however, a feeling of emptiness remained in the air — and not just in terms of supporters' wallets, because this was little more than an exercise in getting exercise. There was a goal from Alan Shearer, the Newcastle striker, a year on from the injury that had done so much to unbalance Newcastle last season, and there was a cameo from Paul Gascoigne, the Middlesbrough and England midfielder.

Yet the memories that lingered were of Andreas Andersson, Mikkel Beck and Hamilton Ricard. It was not pretty. It was apparent from first kick to last that this would be no reliable guide to the fortunes of Newcastle and Middlesbrough in the FA Carling Premiership, nor indeed, to how United might fare in the Cup Winners' Cup. Instead, there were more diverse talking points, like the incongruity of seeing Mark Pembroke and Ronaldo in the same Benfica line-up, although this particular Brazilian happened to be a central defender. It was, unfortunately, the real Pembroke.

And then there was the curious case of Gillespie, sitting in the stands alone, bar Ian Elliott, his agent, a few rows behind his fellow non-playing players. Ostensibly, the reason for his non-involvement was an ankle problem, although the bizarre seating arrangement made it seem as though his particular injury might be contagious.

In reality, the 23-year-old right winger was on the verge



With the new season beckoning, Gascoigne was withdrawn as a precaution at the Riverside Stadium

of completing a £3.5 million transfer from Newcastle to Middlesbrough, a move all but confirmed by the principal parties yesterday — rather frostily in the case of Dalglish, who was decidedly miffed at Middlesbrough's speed in publicising the event.

The press release I got handed was as much as a surprise to Bryan Robson [the Middlesbrough manager] as it was to me," Dalglish said. "If it has gone through, I will be disappointed, because I haven't had a chance to speak to Keith."

"I don't like to announce a signing unless it is 100 per cent

Robson said several hours after the announcement had officially been made. "I've agreed a fee with Newcastle and personal terms with Keith, but he still has to get through his medical."

Robson had conceded earlier that Gillespie was "just the sort of player I was looking to add to our squad", a need that had become acute following the loss of Craig Hignett to Aberdeen and a breakdown in the proposed £5 million transfer of Francesco Moriero, of Internazionale.

Of the off-field problems which have beset Gillespie,

since moving to Newcastle as part of the £7 million deal that took Andy Cole to Manchester United three years ago, Robson professed a lack of concern. "I know the lad well. It's well documented that he had a bit of a gambling problem, but he seems to have got round that. I'm only interested in what he does on the pitch."

His new contract, subject to a medical, will run for five years.

Gascoigne endured his weekly injury scare, a slight calf strain forcing him off at half-time of Middlesbrough's penalty defeat to Newcastle, although that, according to

Robson, was only "precautionary", and there had been a composed performance on Saturday evening from Jason Gavin, Middlesbrough's Irish defender, when Empoli, the Italian club, who finished twelfth in Serie A last season, emerged with a 1-0 win.

So, as the perfect epitaph to a tournament watched by merely 10,000 hardy souls over the course of two days, Empoli and Benfica contested the final in front of a crowd numbering hundreds. An exhaustive penalty shoot-out eventually resulted in victory for Benfica. Super? Hardly.

from Hamilton and Adam before his side regained some of their poise when Wallace cut the deficit in the 27th minute with a right-foot drive.

The pace of McCann, though, tended to trouble Rangers and the winger squandered two good opportunities to restore the Hearts advantage before van Bronckhorst sent a shot inches wide.

Advocaat, not surprisingly, chose to inject some variety into his side's attacking play and brought on Kanchelskis, his most extensive purchase, for the second half in place of Thern. The Ukrainian's £5.5 million fee broke the Scottish transfer record but, apart from one run, he had little opportunity to unleash the electric pace that made him popular at Manchester United and Everton.

Indeed, it was Hearts's own wide player who came closest to scoring again. McCann showed sublime skills with the turn in the 54th minute which left Moore and Ferguson for dead, but yet again the little winger could not finish his good work and Niemi lost his shot.

Wallace's overhead kick gave Rangers cause for optimism and then the Englishman set up Ferguson in the 65th minute, but although the Rangers midfielder played a clear sight of goal, his raking shot evaded the target.

Hamilton (4-4-2): G. Rossini, G. Luchini, D. W. P. Burns, G. Innes, I. Pugh, S. Sawat, S. Fulton, N. McCann, J. Hamilton, S. Adams, G. Hignett, S. Niemi. Rangers (4-4-2): A. Niemi, R. Gattuso, C. Moore, S. Poirier, A. Hume, J. Thern (sub: A. Kanchelskis, 46), G. van Bronckhorst (sub: G. Armano, 58), I. Ferguson, J. Albarez, R. Wallace, G. Durr, P. H. Duff (sub: M. McCallum).

Wednesday delight as Jonk joins for £2.5m

WIM JONK, the Holland midfielder player, will become Danny Wilson's first signing as Sheffield Wednesday manager when he completes a £2.5 million move from PSV Eindhoven today. The 31-year-old, a key factor in his country's run to the World Cup semi-finals this summer, has agreed personal terms with the FA Carling Premiership club and will sign a three-year deal.

Jonk, who was also sought by Nottingham Forest and Tottenham Hotspur, said: "I've a very good feeling about joining Sheffield Wednesday and playing in the Premiership. I'm very impressed with the club and the management and I'm looking forward to it very much."

A delegation from Wednesday, led by David Richards, the chairman, flew to Eindhoven at the weekend to finalise the deal. Graham Mackrell, the Wednesday secretary, said: "Naturally, we're delighted to have landed Wim, who will arrive in Sheffield on Tuesday."

Mackrell added that Wilson still had money available for further purchases. "It's not been the best pre-season with Danny coming on the scene reasonably late," he said. "It's been hard for him, but the money is there as and when he wants to spend it."

Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, has turned down a transfer request from Pierre van Hooijdonk, the Holland striker. The player had claimed that Forest were not good enough to survive in the Premiership this season after the sale of Kevin Campbell, his fellow striker, to Trabzonspor and that he would not stay and "let my career go down the pan".

Bassett, who led his side to promotion from the Nationwide League first division last season, said: "Once again, Van Hooijdonk's lack of self-control has let him down with the comments he has made. He signed a five-year contract and was happy to do so. He has served only one year of that term and I will not be accepting his transfer request."

"It is very unfortunate that he has come out with this and spoken about his team-mates and colleagues in the way that he has."

Hearts get straight back into the groove

Heart of Midlothian 2
Rangers 1

By Phil Gordon

HEARTS emphasised their growing reputation as the third power in Scottish football when they defeated Rangers in their opening Premier League fixture at Tynecastle with a mirror image of last season's Scottish Cup final between the clubs.

Just as on that occasion, the Edinburgh club saw the comfort of a two-goal lead, supplied by Stephane Adam and Jim Hamilton, ripped from them and they had to survive a late Rangers onslaught to emerge with a victory.

Jim Jefferies's side looked like title contenders again, after their third-place finish last season, but Rangers need time for their massive investment to pay off and, ironically, their best player was their goalscorer, Rod Wallace, who arrived on a free transfer.

Scotland's new league has copied its English counterpart in putting players' names on the back of their shirts, a useful aid so far as the Rangers supporters inside Tynecastle were concerned.

Such was the scale of change at the deposed champions during the close-season — with 16 departures and eight arrivals — that only four of the Rangers side that lost the cup final in May were retained for this fixture.

Hearts, not surprisingly, are a club imbued with new vigour since that day, 11 weeks ago, when they won their first piece of silverware in 36 years.

Jansen sees his legacy maintained by Venglos

By Phil Gordon

JESUS GILY GIL and Doug Ellis are not known for their appreciation of irony, but perhaps the notoriously impatient chairman of Atlético Madrid and Aston Villa are the only people who could have understood the position that Fergus McCann, their counterpart at Celtic, found himself in.

Just a few feet behind McCann in the directors' box at Celtic Park on Saturday sat Wim Jansen, the former coach, whose achievements last season drew 60,000 supporters to witness the dawn of a new Scottish Premier League season and the celebration of the championship success just 12 weeks ago. As McCann returned to his seat after the traditional unfurling of the league flag, accompanied by the jeers of many supporters who blame him for Jansen's untimely departure



Salvatori, left, and Wallace, of Rangers, contest a header at Tynecastle yesterday

The thread between the two occasions was continued when the man whose goal secured the Scottish Cup, Stephane Adam, gave Hearts the lead after just five minutes.

Hamilton began the move near the centre circle with a clever reverse pass that caught out Gattuso and allowed McCann to sprint clear down the left. The winger then rolled a pass across the goal area which was missed by both

Numan and Porrini and Adam gratefully stabbed in from six yards.

Six minutes later, Adam could have doubled the advantage when he beat the Rangers outside trap, but his poor first touch carried the ball too close to Niemi and the French striker was subsequently cautioned for an ugly lunge at the Rangers goalkeeper.

Rangers, given that new coach Dick Advocaat had

spent £23 million reinventing the team, were looking a cheap imitation of their former all-conquering selves and that was underlined in the 20th minute when Hamilton scored Hearts's second goal.

Thern dived on the ball too late, allowing McCann to relieve him of it and slip a pass to Hamilton, who drilled his low shot past Niemi. The Rangers goalkeeper then made two wonderful saves

two late goals concluded business. Elsewhere, Aberdeen found encouragement in the form of Craig Hignett, their most notable new signing, the former Middlesbrough player scored his first goal for the club in the 2-0 defeat of newly-promoted Dundee at Dens Park. Eoin Jess had earlier become the first scorer in the new-style Premiership.

Kilmarnock are trying to persuade Ally McCoist, the former Rangers striker, to join them, but that motivated Paul Wright, the club's top scorer for the past three seasons, to net a sublime overhead kick in the 2-0 win against Dundee United. Yet even Wright was outdone by Pat Nevin's arduous lob for the second goal. Motherwell, who have recruited 12 players, beat St Johnstone with a free kick from Jered Stirling, a recent acquisition from Partick Thistle.

SCHOOLS SPORT

Britain builds on rare centre of excellence

By Mike Rosewell

ANNA FANGEN and Jennifer Hutton will be in the bow and stroke seats of the British coxless four when the Junior World Championships begin in Austria on Wednesday. The coach of the crew will be Domyk Honey. Back home, Beryl Crockford will be waiting anxiously for news of the crew's progress. The connection between the quartet is that they all hail from Lady Eleanor Holles BC, undoubtedly the most successful schoolgirls' boat club in the country.

When rowing in girls' schools began to take off in the early 1980s, five girls from LEH, a successful academic institution in Hampton, Middlesex, saw the boys of Hampton School active on the river and wanted to take part. They approached Steve Gunn, then the master of rowing at Hampton and subsequently the coach to the Hampton-based Searle brothers, winners of

to greater heights and the school's top eight have been national schools eights champions since 1993. Crockford, now 48, said: "Every year, the girls have achieved something new and the longer you go on, the more difficult that becomes. Every other year, we have produced at least one junior international, often many more." The success of LEH girls shows no sign of waning and 1997 saw them achieve an unprecedented seven wins at the national schools championships, 18 girls going home with two gold medals each and a further five with one each.

The rowing set-up at LEH is unique. Crockford and the other coaches are not involved as teachers and rowing is not a timetabled activity. The 60 or so girls who opt to row have five or six opportunities a week to do so, all in their own time.

Crockford said not being involved in the academic side of LEH has had its advantages: "I can put the rowing first and fight my corner. With rowing being separate from the school, we don't get a muddled area." LEH do not own their own boathouse, instead they share Molesey BC's premises. LEH also only possess five boats — a quad, a coxless four, a quad and two pairs. Others are borrowed or hired.

"I just get on the phone and tout around," Crockford said. "As far as I am concerned, your main resource is coaches and, as Cliff Richard once said, I make sure that I have good people around me."

Apart from Honey, who is on international duty, Phil Simmons and Nick Lee, two former Hampton junior internationals, are involved, together with Mary Stevens, a former junior and senior international, and Juliette Lloyd, an LEH junior international. Set crews for set coaches is not Crockford's way. "We work as a team. You have to be flexible. When a gap needs plugging, I plug it."



SPORT IN SCHOOLS

In 1989, Beryl Crockford took over as head coach. She had an international career stretching from 1975 to 1986, the highlights of which were two appearances in Olympic sculls finals, one in 1976, the first year that women raced in an Olympic regatta. Her other achievements included a world championship silver medal in 1981, a world gold in 1985 and she also won at Henley in 1982, the first time that women were seen on the Royal Regatta course. Her enthusiasm lifted LEH



The crew of Lady Eleanor Holles School and Domyk Honey, the coach, have a prestigious past to live up to

POLO

CS Brooks hit back to tame Flying Tigers

By John Watson

THE final of the High-Cool Cowdray Park Challenge Group, which was played off well by the close of the second chukka and were leading 5-4 over five chukkas at Midhurst, Sussex, yesterday ended in a 9-6 victory for Brook Johnson's CS Brooks, the winners in 1997, against Alex Danne's Flying Tigers.

The opening chukka saw the Tigers open up a convincing lead with Alan Kent, their No 2, wriggling his Irish bay gelding, Whitesocks, through the opposition to score three quick goals, while Pablo Jaureche defended their own goal with style.

CS Brooks altered their line-up for the second chukka, moving Jaime Huidobro, of Chile, up to No 2, with Andrew Seavill taking his place at back. Huidobro's ball control looked much more like that of a forward, while Seavill's steadiness and exceptional long hitting was better suited to the back slot. The fresh composition served them

well by they had equalised at 3-3 by the close of the second chukka and were leading 5-4 over five chukkas at Midhurst, Sussex, yesterday ended in a 9-6 victory for Brook Johnson's CS Brooks, the winners in 1997, against Alex Danne's Flying Tigers.

The last two chukkas saw CS Brooks going to front strength to strength. In the fourth, Huidobro scored with a 60-yard penalty conversion, after which Senter Johnson, 16, the son of the team's patron, positioned at No 1, put in another from the open. Johnson scored another in the last chukka and so did Seavill. After the Cup was presented to Brook Johnson, the trophies for the best-playing ponies were awarded. The Vickers Cup for the pony judged to be the best heavyweight went to Kent's Whitesocks and the Johnson Cup for the best lightweight to Brook Johnson's Chinchin, ridden by Henry Brett, the team's impressive No 3.

CS Brooks: 1, S. Johnson; 2, J. Huidobro; 3, A. Seavill; 4, A. Danne; 5, A. Kent. Flying Tigers: 1, A. Danne; 2, A. Kent; 3, A. Kent; 4, A. Kent; 5, A. Kent.

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DAVI
HAND



Turning point on the road to hell and back

Sport is about the creation of hell; professional sport is about the creation of newer and deeper hells for its participants — but perhaps the deepest and darkest hell of all is reserved for the riders of the Tour de France.

There are two reasons for sport's unending creation of hells and both of them are money. Reason one is just more sport: the creation of the 12-month season and every month of it must be based around the big names or it won't sell.

Bodies and minds snap under the strain of it all, but the peloton of professional sport rolls ever onward. The England rugby union players cracked under the pressure of excessive demands and the top

men simply refused — under various excuses — to tour in the closing season.

At the World Cup, poor Ronaldo had a fit and was still forced to play in the final. It may have cost Brazil the World Cup, but no doubt it achieved some short-term gain for the money-men.

The second reason for the deliberate creation of hells is that hells make compulsive viewing. All sports have always had some kind of hellishness about them — we would not watch them if they did not — but the Tour de France brings the watching of protracted personal torment to the greatest level in sport.

Football did its best to match this with the invention of the penalty shoot-out. This

is great for the spectators, but then, as my colleague Brian Glanville — never a man to sit on the fence when kicking it to bits is an option — said, so are public executions.

I am always half-expecting to see some sportsman saying: "Come on guys, this is stupid. We don't have to go through this, you know?" I never seriously thought it would actually happen. But it did and it simply had to happen in the Tour de France. No other event could have brought its sportsmen to such a pinch of despair.

The riders had been too long in hell so they refused to race, tearing their numbers off and merely cruising through the French countryside. You almost expected the entire



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

peloton to stop for a three-hour lunch and a few pints of vin du pays.

It all happened because the demands of professional sport add a further dimension of hell to the athlete's life, which is drugs. For many, the fact of the matter is that you do not need drugs to win. You need drugs simply to take part.

Sport has always failed to police itself so, this year, the police decided to police it. The

1998 Tour has been a relentless tale of ruthless harassment justified by the finding of huge caches of drugs. The police action has revealed a sport of massive, formalised and institutionalised drug-taking.

The sport had lost every bit of credibility that it ever had — at least, as a clean and drug-free sport. So what happened on the last day, as the riders cruised, demob happy, seeing an end to their three-week hell

on the approach to Paris? They were cheered. Cheered to the echo and cheered again and then again as they reached the centre of town and raced across the cobbles of the Champs Elysées.

Another last savouring of hell as a sudden gushing of rain made the cobbles an ice-rink and, naturally, no one was going to stop the race for a consideration so small as rider safety.

The riders of the Tour have their own ethic. It is them against the organisers, them against the media, them against the world. Marco Pantani had a puncture, but because of this defiant sporting ethic, the private ethic of the citizens of hell, no one took advantage. "It wouldn't be

right," Steven Roche, commenting for Eurosport, said, "to attack the leader when he was down."

They have been through hell together, these riders. They have been reduced to half their number by exhaustion, injury, illness, also by walkout and disqualification for drugs. The survivors think more of each other than they do of cheap victory. In hell, there is little to cling to but a certain sense of style.

Just as I salute every rider — and, for that matter, every horse — that completes the cross-country at Badminton, so we must salute every rider that finishes the Tour de France. Whether drugged or not. Certainly, that was the message that came from the

crowds on the Champs Elysées.

Drugs can give you strength, but they cannot give you courage. In the Tour de France, as in all the extreme sports, there are heroes, there are villains and there are victims and, in the words of Eric Morecambe, you can't see the join.

This Tour de France was a watershed event in the history of sport. It will go down in history as the turning-point in the battle against drugs.

But will it be because the battle was won or will it be because the battle was no longer considered worth the trouble of fighting? When we realised for the first time that, in sport, hell has no limits?

'New Zealand rugby is no different from the rest of the world when it comes to the removal of core players'

All Black future is a little less bright

So, now we know why New Zealand rugby coaches are popping up left, right and centre in Great Britain. It's not the money, heaven forbid, that has drawn Warren Gatland, John Mitchell and now Graham Henry into positions with, respectively, Ireland, England and Wales. They had read the signs back home and knew what was coming.

Only one of them — Henry — had been born when New Zealand last suffered the indignity of losing three international matches in succession — the *annus horribilis* of 1949, when the All Blacks' record was played six, lost six. You think today's administrators make mistakes? That year, the New Zealand Football Rugby Union dispatched its leading 30 players on tour to South Africa, but played two full internationals at home against Australia at the same time.

DAVID HANDS



Who would seek to be associated with the depth to which New Zealand rugby has clearly sunk within the past 24 days, during which the All Blacks have lost to Australia in Melbourne, South Africa in Wellington and, on Saturday, Australia again in Christchurch? Well, quite a lot of us, actually, knowing the tradition, the technical expertise, the pride and the massive sense of identity that emanate from the Land of the Long White Cloud.

To be fair to John Hart, the New Zealand coach, he warned that this would be a difficult year. It was not, however, what he was saying seven months ago, when the players concluded their tour of Britain and he was asked whether his veterans had it in them to win another World Cup in 1999, but, at that stage, he believed that he would still have Sean Fitzpatrick and Frank Bunce in his squad.

Hart is clever, perceptive and manipulative. He must have known that Fitzpatrick, that man

of iron, might not last the course and was in the process of building up Norman Hewitt and Scott McLeod as the next generation at hooker and centre. He knew already that Taine Randell would replace the retiring Zinzan Brooke. He was not to know that Bunce would succumb to an offer to play in France, that injury would remove Hewitt, McLeod and Alama Ieremia, another experienced centre, from most of this summer's frame, nor that Justin Marshall, his scrum half, would suffer a debilitating injury, too.

New Zealand rugby is no different from the rest of the world when it comes to the removal of core players. You cannot replace in a few short months the experience gained over a decade of the most anxiously competitive rugby. The cracks will appear and it has been New Zealand's forte that they are better at papering over them than most because their structure produces the players with the basic skills to do so.



Plenty to think about for the dejected New Zealand players on their way to a 27-23 defeat by Australia in Christchurch on Saturday. Photograph: Simon Baker

Yet it is right to look closely at some of those who have not been forced to retire, who are still giving their all for New Zealand. Ian Jones and Robin Brooke, that great pairing at lock forward, are 31 now; there is little that they have not seen in the game, save the ultimate thrill of winning a World Cup final. Does the hunger still burn, particularly when they must dig even deeper to help to compensate for the absence of their old leader, Fitzpatrick?

Michael Jones, at 33, is not the player he was, though that still leaves him better than most back-row forwards. Hart has tried to bring in replacements within a reasonably settled environment, but it is arguable that he should

have made more. Even so, would argument rage about his head if his marksman had not let him down this year? In the crunch games, Andrew Mehrtens and Carlos Spencer, world-class goal-kickers both, could not find the target often enough in Melbourne and Wellington.

There is one more element that has changed. When Hart watched, with a smile playing about his lips as Fitzpatrick struggled to hold aloft the three huge trophies won by the All Blacks just under a year ago, he must have breathed a silent prayer that neither South Africa nor Australia were as rock solid in their leadership as were the All Blacks.

New Zealand won the 1996 and

1997 tri-nations tournaments at a time when the opposition was at odds with itself. In the first of those years, South Africa had André Markgraaff making his way as coach with a side suffering from post-World Cup syndrome.

In the second of those years, South Africa had appointed as Markgraaff's successor Carel du Plessis, whose coaching record was as brief as Hart's was lengthy. Now the Springboks have Nick Mallett, a cosmopolitan figure capable of holding his own as coach with the loquacious Hart on and off the field. They have allowed Gary Teichmann to grow in stature as captain and No 8 and the whole

side is better for it. Similarly, in Australia, Greg Smith's tenure as coach was lit by the reverberations of public argument as to whether he should be in the role or not; now, under Rod Macqueen, the Wallabies are a more harmonious outfit with a gifted footballer, Stephen Larkham, in the pivotal position of fly half.

Both countries have come roaring up on New Zealand more quickly than even Hart may have expected and have ripped from the All Blacks the tri-nations trophy and, in the case of Australia, the Bledisloe Cup. Better for it to happen this year, Hart will think, than next year, when the World Cup looms. "We're going to go back to the drawing board and

rethink what our strategy now is," Hart said, with two more internationals still to be played this summer.

Next year, Randell, his captain, will be older and wiser and his players as a group will have enjoyed a decent rest during the close season, when no tours are scheduled. "Obviously, I'm under pressure because the buck invariably stops with the coach," Hart added. "I'm sure the union will review my position. They understand what is happening." Rugby's administrators are not always renowned for their depth of that understanding, but they will not be stopping the Hart-beat just yet.

Australia triumph, page 33

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number

SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to sport.letters@the-times.co.uk
Correspondence should include address and postcode

Tour deserves much better

From Mr Stephen Burke

Sir, Jeremy Whittle's Tour de France article "Tour trips through drugs haze" (Monday, July 27) adds to the already sensational reporting concerning the recent revelations. Apparently, "Le Tour — C'est fini". Tell that to tens of thousands of supporters from across Europe who waited for hours in pouring rain to see their heroes. Whittle writes of the sport's "insularity and arrogance", that it "finds it hard to acknowledge the values of the outside world" and that it is "beyond the rule of normal ethical laws". Incredibly charges, but what is there to back them up?

The UCL cycling's governing body, took steps over a year ago to clamp down on EPO. Due to the lack of an effective test, it had to set limits on red blood cells. Cycling has had drug controls in place for longer than any other sport and these controls extend to anyone, amateur or professional, who races — (an amateur friend has been tested four times). Other sports have ignored the problem (no drug tests equals no positives) yet talking to other sportspeople reveals how wide-

spread doping actually is. When Whittle points to the "most institutionalised doping scandal in modern sport", he is surely forgetting Eastern Europe and its drug regimes. Comments by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, have been reported as meaning that he approves of the legalisation of drugs in sport.

The reality is that cycling is no different than many other sports when it comes to drugs, but the recent sensationalist reporting has tended to ignore that fact.

STEPHEN BURKE, 73 Rough Common Road, Canterbury, Kent CT2 9DE.

From Mr Tom Williams

Sir, Now that the president of the IOC has accepted the use of drugs by athletes, might I suggest a handicapping system to ensure that non-users start on an equal footing to admitted users.

Sprinters should start one metre behind the line; hurdlers should have an extra hurdle to negotiate; shot putters use a heavier shot; high jumpers take off from a pit; marathon runners carry weights on their backs; ballroom dancers carry an extra 10,000 sequins on the lady's frock.

Northamptonshire feels ignored by England

From Mr David Powell

Sir, I note that of the 37 players provisionally chosen for the World Cup next year, more than half come from just four counties (Lancashire and Surrey six each, Leicestershire and Warwickshire four each). None at all are from Durham, Hampshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Somerset.

You cite Chris Lewis, of Leicestershire, as "the most conspicuous absentee". Mal Loye is far and away the most deserving omission. He is the leading English run-scorer both in the championship and in the Axa League, yet he

The possible permutations are endless. I'm sure the British betting industry would quickly produce the athletic equivalent of the Timeform book, with the athletes' handicaps detailed for the benefit of the gambling public.

Think how much more interesting this would make the essentially dull world of athletics and think of the new possibilities for advertising and sponsorship — with the athletes' vests displaying drug company logos instead of boring old Nike and Adidas.

Roll on the Glaxo/Pfizer/British Biotech Olympics!

Yours faithfully, TOM WILLIAMS, 41 Ridgeway Road, Oxford OX3 8DT.

Reflections on Trent Bridge

From Mr Jeff Elder

Sir, The ferocious bowling of Allan Donald to Michael Atherton from round the wicket at Trent Bridge on Sunday after the tea interval raises the question yet again as to the legitimacy of the very short-pitched ball aimed at the batsman's head (the so-called "throat ball").

In football, if a player goes for the man, not the ball, it is a foul and the referee has the sanction of the yellow or red card. Why not something equivalent in cricket? From head-high upwards, the batsman has no practical chance of a scoring shot, hence it would seem appropriate to deem such a ball a no ball, at the same time eliminating the prospect of the batsmen being at risk getting out whilst trying to get his head out of the way — hardly a "fair" means of dismissal.

Watery grave

From Mr John B. Griffin

Sir, In June, at Sheffield, Tyldesley Swimming Club's Under-16s beat Cheltenham 10-9 in the final of the ASA junior water polo competition — the first national trophy in the club's 122-year history. This was ignored by the Press.

A small mining community, Tyldesley was the second town in Lancashire to acquire a public swimming baths, in 1865. For whatever reason, a strong water polo tradition developed. As a boy in the late 1940s, every Monday evening in summer I was in the crowded baths to cheer on Tyldesley's first team as, in the Northern League, they enter-

By any other name

From Mr Peter Smith

Sir, Since the second day of the Open Championship golf at Royal Birkdale, we have had a plethora of puns, good, bad and indifferent, on the surname of Justin Rose. Saturday Sport today (July 25) has no less than four punning headlines about his exploits.

Puns are a legitimate form of literary conceit, but tire-some when carried to excess. Is it not time for the headline writers to give us, and the young prodigy himself, a break?

(Fourth day), the Times article states that "it deserved a full house rather than the rows of empty seats". I agree; it was a fantastic day's cricket.

However, the reason is simple: the cheapest tickets that were available a week before were £28, which is outrageous. I was planning, with a large group of friends, to attend Saturday's play, but at this price there was no way we could afford it.

Yours sincerely, PATRICK FOSTER, 23 Grange Farm Close, Nottingham NG9 6EB.

From Mr Patrick Foster

Sir, In the main report of the Test match at Trent Bridge

This week in THE TIMES



- Tomorrow How high is Tim Henman, above, rising in the world of tennis after playing Andre Agassi in the final in Los Angeles?
- Thursday Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, gauges the mood at Headingley as England bid to end a 12-year wait for a full series victory.
- Friday The countdown to the football season continues with a club-by-club guide to the Nationwide League.
- Saturday In an exclusive extract from his forthcoming book, David Ellery looks at the lessons for referees after the World Cup finals.

SCHOOLS SPORT
Britain builds rare centre of excellence

SPORT
IN SCHOOLS



Brooks hit ball
Lame flying list

CYCLING

Scandals take shine off Pantani's joy

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN PARIS

THE charismatic and inimitable Marco Pantani, the winner of the Tour de France in June, sealed victory in the 85th Tour de France in Paris yesterday to end the most bitter and troubled race in the history of professional cycling.

Pantani, shaven-headed, jagged and sporting a celebratory bleached goatee beard, rose above the turmoil and intrigue that has marred the race to become the first Italian winner of the Tour since Felice Gimondi in 1965.

When Pantani strode into the Tour press room on Saturday afternoon, after limiting his losses in the final time-trial of the Tour at Le Creusot — which was won by Jan Ullrich — the dapper Gimondi was waiting for *Il Pirata* with a warm hug of congratulation.

Although, over the past decade,

tough, nervous and very difficult Tour," Pantani admitted, "There's no other sport that compares with cycling, no other event with three weeks of such intense competition."

Pantani, who was one of the riders to remove his race number during the stage to Aix-les-Bains last Wednesday, in solidarity with the peloton's protest at police raids on team hotels, remained non-committal when asked for his views on doping.

"If all the problems linked to doping that the police have been investigating are proved, then that will be tough on all the riders," Pantani said. "Certainly, I think that the fear of police raids and investigation have made this a cleaner Tour de France."

Although Ullrich won three stages in the 1998 Tour, he was unable to respond to Pantani's two inspired attacks in the mountains. The second, in the chill mist at Les Deux Alpes, fatally wounded the young German.

"I'm not being arrogant," Pantani said, "but I think that nobody else would have prompted Ullrich's collapse that day. Maybe I'm more mature, more experienced and canner in a situation like that. It was a day when I felt as strong as I've ever done. It made up for all the bad luck I've had in the past."

That bad luck includes a litany of crashes and injuries that have threatened his career. Even so, the Yellow Panther or *Pantagiallo* voiced his own doubts about his form as the Tour headed into its second week, leading to accusations that he was playing mind games with the emotionally frail Ullrich.

"That's not the case," Pantani said. "During a Tour lasting three weeks, you go through a lot of changes. Maybe I'm more sincere than some of the others. When I talk about my weaknesses, people seem to take it the wrong way."

As Pantani finished safely in the main field, the showpiece finish to the Tour on the Champs Elysee yesterday was won by Tom Steels, the Belgian champion, who took his fourth stage win after another tight sprint to the line.

Yet after all this Tour had been through, the podium ceremonies and traditional lap of honour from the surviving teams had a hollow and strained ring to them.



The Times car, with reporter at the wheel, sets off for another eventful day following the riders in Tour de France

Following a pirate's Tour de force

Never mind the EPO, Jeremy Whittle lifts the lid on three weeks fuelled by cheese

Up on the top of the Col du Galibier, high in the glowing peaks of the French Alps, the swirling, freezing mist has cut visibility to a few metres as we crawl up the steep, slick hairpins towards the exposed and remote summit.

Although it is early afternoon, it is almost dark as our Audi sweeps around the tight bends, the headlights picking up the taut, frozen faces of kagoule-clad, ghostly figures, spectators who have been awaiting the passage of the Tour de France since early morning.

But, sadly for these die-hard fans, it is almost too dark to see anything, even a shaven-headed, jagged-eared bandana-wearing Italian cyclist who is about to enter the Tour's hall of legendary exploits. By the time that Marco Pantani has flown clear of the field at the summit of the Col du Galibier and begun the perilous drop to the valley, with Jan Ullrich, the defending champion, in a state of near-collapse in his wake, we have sped up the final climb and are ensconced in a press tent at the ski station finish at Les Deux Alpes.

The *comite local* has provided a press buffet that begins with orderly queuing, but, with the flying

press and team vehicles racing in a blur along the Tour route, the classic lines of our Audi Quattro, festooned with *The Times* logo, get us noticed. In fact, it gets a better response from the French public than *L'Equipe's* *Bohila* of cars, all of whom remove their *L'Equipe* stickers as roadside fans turn angrily on the newspaper over their treatment of Aime Jacquet, France's successful World Cup coach.

Driving in the race convoy is nerve-racking, even for the initiated. Cars are allowed to follow race breakaways, providing that their lead is in excess of a minute. It is a breathtaking experience, not only because of the skill and speed of the riders, who, when battling to stay clear of the chasing field, rarely drop their pace below 35 miles an hour, but also because of the fearless driving of team directors, race officials and guest car drivers.

The Tour is a race against time, not only for the 189 riders but also for the 5,000-odd people working around the clock to erect television gantries, build grandstands, update the World Wide Web, file newspaper and television reports and, of course, to stock those press buffets. At the heart of the whirlwind are the riders themselves, who pedal into the tented start village each morning, blissfully unaware of the music activity around them.

Of course, there is more to following the Tour than car wars, cheesy buffets, creaking technology and the stress of deadlines. This year, we had doping scandals and police raids, not to mention a classic performance from *Il Pirata*.

Perverse though it may sound, such dramas suit the Tour's grandiose traditions. By the end of this year's three-week odyssey, I have seen almost five thousand miles of European road, eaten 21 cheese buffets, learnt a little more Italian, been knocked flying by German television, watched police raids decimate the field more effectively than any Alpine hairpin and found out too much about doping in sport. Will there ever be another race like it?

Inquiries continue into drug problem

AS THE Tour de France ended in Paris yesterday, there was every indication that French police will continue to pursue their investigations into the drugs issue that tainted this year's race (Jeremy Whittle writes).

This morning, riders from the Dutch-sponsored TVM team, whose manager, Cees Priem, and doctor, Andrei Mikhailov, have already been charged with transporting banned substances, are due to be interviewed by the French judiciary in Reims.

Although Judge Patrick Keil, the magistrate leading the inquiry into the "Festina affair" is on holiday, the investigation is set to continue with both the ONCE and Casino teams likely to give evidence. Nicolas Terrados, the ONCE team doctor, and Rodolfo Massi, a Casino rider, have both been charged and released on bail, pending a court appearance later this summer.

According to reports in the Italian press over the weekend, Massi, who was detained by French police last Wednesday, has allegedly been accused of selling EPO to other riders by Gilles Bouvard, his Casino team-mate. However, Massi, who has returned to Italy since being released by the French police on Friday, has responded angrily to Bouvard's reported claims.

"Bouvard has fallen out with the rest of the team", Massi, who insists that the large number of corticoids found in his bags were for the treatment of asthma, said. "He didn't want to work for me when I won the Tour of the Mediterranean in the spring and then he tried to make me lose Paris-Nice."

Among other witnesses expected to be called to interview with Judge Keil over the next month are Luc Leblanc, a former world champion, formerly of the Festina team, and Jean-Marie Leblanc, the Tour's director general.

Although Amarty Group, the powerful French media company that owns the Societe du Tour de France, remains confident of retaining its bigger sponsors, including Credit Lyonnais, Fiat and Coca-Cola, several of the Tour's other sponsors are said to be considering their options after the events of the 1998 race.

Final results and positions 35

Italian riders have won almost every other significant race, the Tour had become a psychological barrier to most powerful nation in European cycling. Pantani's success has broken that jinx, in a year when the route was expected to do little for a rider whose greatest talent is for climbing and descending mountains at incredible speed.

But then the 85th Tour was unlike any other, as the 'Festina Affair' snowballed into a full-blown expose of the sleaze and distrust that has become endemic in the sport.

While most of his rivals descended into bickering and recrimination as police raids, rider strikes and media-driven revelations left the Tour in a state of near-collapse, Pantani kept his cool and focused on final overall victory.

That his success looked threatened even as late as last Friday was not down to the resistance of Ullrich, but to the precarious status of the Tour as, with rider after rider slipping quietly out of the race, it headed north with a more ominous police escort than the one it has become accustomed to.

Ultimately, Pantani's success, forged on one extraordinary day in the high Alps, seemed to be the only truly joyous moment in a race weighed down by paranoia and rancour. "Mentally, this has been a

30p THE TIMES

IF UNITED CAN AFFORD HIM, SO CAN YOU.

Football 98-99 Fantasy League

Don't miss your chance to enter the original Fantasy League and win a share of £100,000. See Monday's free 16-page supplement for details.

http://www.the-times.co.uk CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I gave an example recently of a lead-directing double against a game contract. Here is one from the round-robin phase of the 1997 Bermuda Bowl, in the match between Brazil and United States 11.

| Dealer South | East-West Game | IMPs |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ♠ 1054 ♥ 1087 ♦ J5 ♣ 9872 | ♠ 863 ♥ J64 ♦ A843 ♣ AK6 | ♠ K72 ♥ AKQ92 ♦ 10762 ♣ 4 |

Contract: Three No-Trumps Doubled, by South Lead: eight of hearts

Jeff Meckstroth doubled in the East seat. All that says in this auction is, "Partner, I have a good chance of beating Three No-Trumps if you lead my suit." As his long suit was more likely to be a major than a minor, Rodwell (West) led a heart and the defence took the first five tricks. Had Meckstroth not doubled, Rodwell would have led a spade and then the declarer would have made the contract.

A summer problem: As South you find yourself in 3 NT with no opposition bidding. How should you play when West leads the four of hearts and East covers dummy's jack with the queen?

2) What is the best N-S contract (rubber bridge)?

☐ *The Times Book of Bridge 1*, a compendium of some of Robert Sheehan's daily columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B.T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 postage and packing).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

ZYTHUM
a. Old beer
b. A plucked instrument
c. A tropical plant

SNAFU
a. Japanese dish
b. To be tired
c. Confusion

ALLIGATOR
a. Fan of jazz music
b. Dangerous mammal
c. Slang word for a banker

JABORANDI
a. A tribal ritual dance
b. Nonsense
c. Brazilian drug

Answers on page 40

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Neck and neck

At the end of the first week of the Smith & Williamson British championship in Torquay, grandmasters Nigel Short and Matthew Sadler (having drawn their individual game) still share the lead. Top scores out of 6 are as follows: Sadler and Short S. Rowson, Speelman, Sasikiran, Gornally and Miles 4½. White: Jonathan Rowson Black: Matthew Sadler British championship Torquay 1998

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 64 | 2 Nc3 | 3 Nf3 | 4 Nf6 | 5 Nbd4 | 6 Be3 | 7 Bc4 | 8 Bc4 | 9 Bc4 | 10 Qc3 | 11 Bc4 | 12 Bc4 | 13 Nc3 | 14 Nc2 | 15 Bc4 | 16 Qe5 | 17 Qe2 | 18 Nc3 | 19 Bc4 | 20 Nf3 | 21 Bc4 | 22 Bc4 | 23 Bc4 | 24 Qd4 | 25 Nc4 | 26 e5 |
| 1 Nc5 | 2 Qe4 | 3 Rf4 | 4 Qb4 | 5 Kf1 | 6 Qd6 | 7 Nc5 | 8 Nc5 | 9 Nc5 | 10 Bc3 | 11 Bc3 | 12 Bc3 | 13 Qc3 | 14 Nc3 | 15 Qe5 | 16 Qe5 | 17 Qe5 | 18 Nc5 | 19 Nc5 | 20 Nf3 | 21 Bc2 | 22 Bc1 | 23 Bc3 | 24 Qd4 | 25 Qc3 | 26 e5 |

White resigns

Sicilian Defence

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 64 | 2 Nc3 | 3 Nf3 | 4 Nf6 | 5 Nbd4 | 6 Be3 | 7 Bc4 | 8 Bc4 | 9 Bc4 | 10 Qc3 | 11 Bc4 | 12 Bc4 | 13 Nc3 | 14 Nc2 | 15 Bc4 | 16 Qe5 | 17 Qe2 | 18 Nc3 | 19 Bc4 | 20 Nf3 | 21 Bc4 | 22 Bc4 | 23 Bc4 | 24 Qd4 | 25 Nc4 | 26 e5 |
| 1 Nc5 | 2 Qe4 | 3 Rf4 | 4 Qb4 | 5 Kf1 | 6 Qd6 | 7 Nc5 | 8 Nc5 | 9 Nc5 | 10 Bc3 | 11 Bc3 | 12 Bc3 | 13 Qc3 | 14 Nc3 | 15 Qe5 | 16 Qe5 | 17 Qe5 | 18 Nc5 | 19 Nc5 | 20 Nf3 | 21 Bc2 | 22 Bc1 | 23 Bc3 | 24 Qd4 | 25 Qc3 | 26 e5 |

White resigns

Ray Lopez

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 64 | 2 Nf3 | 3 Bc4 | 4 Bc4 | 5 Bc4 | 6 Bc4 | 7 Bc4 | 8 Bc4 | 9 Bc4 | 10 Bc4 | 11 Bc4 | 12 Bc4 | 13 Bc4 | 14 Bc4 | 15 Bc4 | 16 Bc4 | 17 Bc4 | 18 Bc4 | 19 Bc4 | 20 Bc4 | 21 Bc4 | 22 Bc4 | 23 Bc4 | 24 Bc4 | 25 Bc4 | 26 Bc4 |
| 1 Bc5 | 2 Qc3 | 3 Qc3 | 4 Qc3 | 5 Qc3 | 6 Qc3 | 7 Qc3 | 8 Qc3 | 9 Qc3 | 10 Qc3 | 11 Qc3 | 12 Qc3 | 13 Qc3 | 14 Qc3 | 15 Qc3 | 16 Qc3 | 17 Qc3 | 18 Qc3 | 19 Qc3 | 20 Qc3 | 21 Qc3 | 22 Qc3 | 23 Qc3 | 24 Qc3 | 25 Qc3 | 26 Qc3 |

Black resigns

Diagram of final position

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | ♔ | ♙ | ♙ | ♙ | ♙ | ♙ | ♙ | ♙ |
| 7 | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | |
| | a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h |

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Polujahov - Gyanets, Russia, 1998. White has sacrificed a piece for two pawns and strong pressure on the kingside. How does he now justify his investment?

Solution on page 40

OS goes O

Blacks pay for their lack of invention

SPEEDWAY

My ups the pace series success

Seven reasons why North Atlantic stocks are in such decline

SOS goes out — Save Our Salmon

Brian Clarke says that alarm bells are ringing now that the extent of the pressures on the king of fish are beginning to strike home

The news that salmon catches in England and Wales dropped by 40 per cent on their long-term average last year and, in the same period, that the fish managed to spawn at just 60 per cent of the levels necessary to ensure its future would normally be about as newsworthy as dog bites man.

Anglers scarcely know whether to laugh or cry, but there is a strong disposition towards the latter. The EA's political master, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), has consistently taken the side of the commercial fishing lobby against anglers' conservationists.

North East coast, takes an average of 25,000 salmon a year — twice the total annual catch by all anglers in England and Wales combined.

Anglers could take and mandatory catch-and-release programmes where appropriate. As ever, of course, when arguments become polarised and frustration mounts, there is a danger that the essential issue becomes lost.

Anglers scarcely know whether they ought to laugh or cry' The principal factors were listed in an "accord" promoted by Britain's Atlantic Salmon Trust and the United States' Atlantic Salmon Federation when Nasco met in June — and helped to concentrate minds. They are:

- 1. Poor spawning and production of young salmon in rivers (largely a pollution and habitat problem). 2. The impact of salmon farming on wild salmon (including disease issues and the inter-breeding of escaped farm fish with wild fish).



This Tamar scene could soon be a much rarer sight

RUGBY UNION

All Blacks pay for their lack of invention

New Zealand..... 23 Australia..... 27

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHAT now must we make of the relationship between the much-touted Super 12 tournament and success at the highest level of international rugby? Two months ago, two New Zealand provinces, Canterbury and Auckland, contested the Super 12 final and the stage was set for the All Blacks to sustain their domination of the tri-nations tournament.

Their defeat in Christchurch on Saturday, however, means they will finish bottom of the table in a tournament that will be decided when Australia meet South Africa in Johannesburg on August 22. The All

back, wing or scrum half, has repaid him. Matt Burke has returned full of running after injury and Tom Bowmar, at 22, is maturing fast in his first international season in the second row.

"It was a very polished performance for a player just starting off at five-eighth [fly half]," Macquieen said of Larkham. "He has made the position his own now."

Larkham's confidence has also allowed George Gregan to recover form, the scrum half making some masterly decisions.

There is a creativity about Australia that their rivals have yet to show. This tri-nations has been dominated by defence and old-fashioned international virtues rather than the frenetic pace of Super 12 matches, a development that suits Australia's physical and mental abilities.

Andrew Mehrtens passed 400 international points for New Zealand, but, lacking the concussioned Josh Kromfeld, they turned over twice as much ball as Australia and paid the penalty.

SCORES: New Zealand: Try: Cullen (70min), Lomu (82). Conversions: Mehrtens 2. Penalty goals: Mehrtens 3 (55, 60). Australia: Try: Bowmar (7), Burke (40), Lita (42), Larkham (71). Conversions: Cullen 2. Penalty goals: Burke 5 (7).

SCORING SEQUENCE (New Zealand first): 0-5, 3-5, 3-10 (half-time), 3-17, 3-17, 6-23, 3-20, 9-27, 16-37, 23-37. NEW ZEALAND: C. M. Cullen (Wellington); J. W. Wilson (Dunedin); M. A. Meyerhoff (Christchurch); W. L. Lita (North Harbour); J. T. Lomu (Canterbury); A. P. Mehrtens (Canterbury); J. W. Marshall (Canterbury); G. W. Dorey (Auckland); rep: S. H. Hoare (Otago); 40min: A. D. Oliver (Otago); O. M. Brown (Auckland); 10: J. Jones (North Harbour); R. M. Brodie (Auckland); 31: M. Jones (Auckland); 37: P. Carter (Auckland); rep: S. M. Robertson (Canterbury); 50: T. C. Randall (Otago, capt).

AUSTRALIA: M. Burke (New South Wales); J. S. Lita (Queensland); D. J. Hargest (Queensland); T. J. Horan (Queensland); J. W. C. Root (Australian Capital Territory); S. Laidlaw (ACT); G. M. Shearer (ACT); J. Crowley (Queensland); P. H. Kearns (NSW); A. T. Bredie (NSW); J. A. Eales (Queensland); rep: J. M. Bennett (NSW); M. J. Croghan (ACT); D. J. Wilson (Queensland); T. B. Kato (Queensland); rep: V. Chibrikov (NSW, 65). Referee: W. D. Bevan (Wales).

Hart under pressure..... 31

Blacks' third successive reverse also signalled the loss of the Bledisloe Cup, even though they must face Australia once more, in Sydney on August 29.

Had their goal-kicking been better, they might have won their previous tri-nations games in Melbourne and Wellington, but this time there was no such excuse. For 78 minutes, Australia were plainly the better team, scoring four tries to none. Late touchdowns by Christian Cullen and Jonah Lomu only put a gloss on the scoreboard.

Whenever the tri-nations trophy goes, this has already been a triumphant year for Australian rugby. Rod Macquieen, their coach, gambled on playing a footballer at fly half — and how Stephen Larkham, previously a full

SPEEDWAY

Hurry ups the pace for series success

By TONY HOARE

ENGLAND wrapped up the international series against Australia with an emphatic win at Eastbourne on Saturday night. Against many expectations, England won 56-40, putting them 2-0 up in the three-match series.

Martin Dugard, the Eastbourne team captain, and Joe Screen were the mainstays of the victory, with crucial support coming from Paul Hurry, the Oxford rider who filled the reserve berth. Hurry scored ten points and won the deciding race by overtaking Ryan Sullivan, of Australia, with a lap to go.

Dave Jessup, the England manager, paid tribute to Hurry after the match. "Paul was a trump card for us, he has a very low average score in the league, something like six, but he scored far more than that for us tonight," Jessup said. "If he is more inspired by riding for England, then that is fine by me."

"Winning this match was always going to be a struggle, but the guys have done a superb job."

Australia struggled. Craig Boyce, their captain, scored only one point and Ryan Sullivan, who rides in the world championship grand prix series, managed just two.

No British riders finished on the rostrum at the world under-21 championship in Poland on Saturday. The highest Briton was Leigh Latham in fifth place with nine points, followed by Scott Nicholls and Lee Richardson on eight. Andre Compton was in fourteenth position with three points.

Robert Dados, of Poland, won the title after a run-off against Krzysztof Jablonski, his compatriot. Matej Ferjan, his compatriot, who rode for Belle Vue in the Elite League at the start of the season, was third.

Large advertisement for Fantasy League featuring a photo of a player (Yorkke) and the text 'TRANSFERRED'. Includes promotional text: 'Don't miss your chance... See the original... fantasy league and win a share of £100,000... Supplement for details.' and a small 'Football 98-99' logo.

ATHLETICS

Track and field
ANNEXY, France: IAAF World Junior Championships 2000: 1.100m (M) 1:23.00...

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Tampa Bay 5 Detroit 1
Toronto 4 Chicago White Sox 10 Texas 2...

BOWLS

LEIGHSTON Third International: England 10 South 10 (England names 10...

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Warwickshire 100 Lancashire 100...

GOLF

MEMPHIS, Tennessee: St Jude Classic: Leaders after three rounds: Greg Sargent...

MOTORCYCLING

BRANDS HATCH: World Superbike Championship: Final 2: R. V. Turner...

RUGBY UNION

Tri-nations series
New Zealand 23 Australia 27
New Zealand 23 Australia 27...

FOOTBALL

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Celtic (1) 5 DUNFERMLINE (0) 0...

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Essendon 12 12
Geelong 12 12 West Coast 12 12...

BASKETBALL

ATHENS: World championship: Yugoslavia 69 Japan 54 Lithuania 65 Russia 65...

CYCLING

TOUR DE FRANCE: Twentieth stage
Paris-Cherbourg 127.5km: 1. Laurent Brochard...

CLUB CRICKET

PARKER INTERNATIONAL LTD SADDLE
WORTH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE:
Saddleworth 162-7 Deoband 103-3...

POOLS CHECK

VICTORIA: First division: Doncaster 3 Waverley 1, East
Altona 2 Waverley 2 Latrobe 1 Geelong 1...

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League
22 Leeds 16
Castleford Tigers: Tries: Flowers, On...

TENNIS

LOS ANGELES: Mercedes-Benz Cup
Quarter-finals: T. Hays (USA) 6-4, 6-3...

FOOTBALL

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Celtic (1) 5 DUNFERMLINE (0) 0...

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Essendon 12 12
Geelong 12 12 West Coast 12 12...



Carl Fogarty (No 2), the two-times world superkick champion, takes the bend during the early part of the race at Brands Hatch yesterday. Colin Edwards, of the United States, was the eventual winner

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LAW

Passing the exam was easy, says Nick Armstrong, who explores why lawyers need to be made out of heavy mettle

If you listen closely this morning, you might just hear 6,500 young lawyers start breathing again. Throughout the country, envelopes are landing on doormats bringing this year's legal practice course (LPC) results.

The law of reality bites

About 5,500 will have passed the course first time, a further 1,000 can expect to pass on a re-sit and about 4,700 will have secured a training contract by September, when most law firms start the two-year vocational training that leads to qualification as a solicitor.

The 800 who did not get jobs are in trouble. They are highly qualified, but for only one job. They are highly motivated, but they are competing for work with the 1,100 or so who did not get jobs last year and the 2,000-odd from the year before. They thought that they were entering a high-earning profession, but they now have debts of up to £20,000 and no income. They have gambled and lost.

Only the legal profession asks its recruits to place such a bet. Only the legal profession expects students to undertake and fund their training without providing an income. The LPC costs up to £6,600 in fees

alone and in some cases that figure is rising by more than 6 per cent a year.

Even those with jobs will have debts incurred during the LPC: trainee salaries are often just high enough to make undergraduate loans repayable. Then there are the commercial loans used for the LPC. If the law firm is also a lender, it will want repayment during the training period. The result is crippling repayments. Trainees may face other problems. Ten per cent of trainees suffer from discrimination or harassment at work, prompting a Trainee Solicitors' Group (TSG) helpline. Several weeks ago that helpline took its first suicide call. Two weeks later, it took its second. On the helpline, we hear from trainees being asked to take unethical shortcuts at work, and dismissed when

they refuse. Sometimes, the abuse is sexually and racially motivated. I have heard of the word "nigger" used by a solicitor against a trainee.

The Law Society is looking at tightening up monitoring of firms that take the trainees, but, ultimately, monitoring requires a complaint, and few trainees are willing to make one. The problems arising on the helpline are, of course, very specific. But they can sometimes reflect issues of more general application.

Overwork is a common problem among trainees and young solicitors. A recent report suggested that 39 per cent of trainees would not join the solicitors' profession if they had their time again and overwork was cited as a cause. Another report revealed a 40 per cent

turnover of assistant solicitors at City law firms. Hours worked and other quality-of-life answers were given. Solicitors are rejecting the traditional pressures of private practice and opting instead for life in-house, life in academe or life completely outside the field.

Salaries do not always compensate for these pressures. Contrary to popular belief, most solicitors are not highly paid. A Law Society salary survey two years ago reported an average salary for solicitors (excluding partners) of £24,000. This dropped to £20,000 in firms with more than a quarter of fee income from legal aid.

Another issue for those entering the solicitors' profession is job security. This varies according to which area of law you want to specialise in, and specialisms that were attrac-

tive a year or so ago are less so now. For example, no one coming through the system now should ignore the government proposals to reform civil justice and legal aid. They will affect not only the choice of specialism, but the choice of firm.

Most commentators agree that the proposals will favour the large practices. Even those trainees working in large City firms, traditionally considered a more secure area of practice, are subject to these changes. Commercial and corporate work is booming at present, but everyone remembers what happened to commercial property during the last recession. Given the prediction of another recession, the smart money in legal recruitment is probably on insolvency work.

Not all of these changes are threats. For lawyers prepared to watch market changes, opportunities are opening up. The incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights, the *Fairness at Work* White Paper and the Competitiveness Bill vie with each other to be the next big thing. The Lord Chancellor's proposals to extend rights of audience to solicitors on qualification represent another opportunity. Regulation of the world is in-



About 4,500 lawyers will have passed the legal practice course exam this year

creasing, but in some areas, the regulation of the legal profession is decreasing. The key to succeeding in the profession is spotting these developments and positioning oneself accordingly. The problem for those

tentatively opening their post this morning is getting that chance. Unfortunately, debt, maltreatment and arbitrariness still play too great a part in determining who those lucky few will be.

Dr Armstrong, a trainee at Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield, chairs the TSG, and is a Visiting Fellow at Nottingham Law School. For more details of the TSG, contact Rita Oscar, 0171-320 5794.

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101/102, 101/102
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The College of Law

The Professional Skills Course (PSC) is the last stage of training before you qualify. The course is provided to trainee solicitors after the LPC. It complements the skills learned on the LPC, and gives practical training relevant to the trainee's work in the office.

The Law Society has made wide-ranging changes to the Professional Skills Course (PSC) which came into effect from 1st June 1998.

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Further information on the UEL School of Law is available on the net at <http://www.uel.ac.uk/80/faculties/socsci/law/> or you can contact Sharon Senner on 0181 849 3506, by fax on 0181 849 3467 or at s.senner@uel.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY of EAST LONDON

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What to do w

Design Group

the College

Guildford

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|-----------------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 3200 | B&S Group | 346 | -2 | 7.9 | 10.3 | |
| 445 | Beck's Pilsener | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's Pilsener | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's Pilsener | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

BANKS

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|------------------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 2236 | ABN-AMRO | 160 | -1 | 1.5 | 3.2 | |
| 1523 | Bank of Scotland | 117 | 0 | 1.7 | 3.6 | |
| 1524 | Bank of Ireland | 117 | 0 | 1.7 | 3.6 | |
| 1525 | Bank of Montreal | 117 | 0 | 1.7 | 3.6 | |

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 786 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|-----------------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 117 | British Airways | 117 | 0 | 1.7 | 3.6 | |
| 117 | British Airways | 117 | 0 | 1.7 | 3.6 | |

ELECTRICITY

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|----------------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 436 | British Energy | 289 | -1 | 1.5 | 3.2 | |
| 436 | British Energy | 289 | -1 | 1.5 | 3.2 | |

BUILDING MATERIALS

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|-----------------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 117 | British Airways | 117 | 0 | 1.7 | 3.6 | |
| 117 | British Airways | 117 | 0 | 1.7 | 3.6 | |

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|--------------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 68 | ARM Holdings | 125 | 0 | 1.7 | 3.6 | |
| 68 | ARM Holdings | 125 | 0 | 1.7 | 3.6 | |

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

MEDIA

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

OTHER FINANCIAL

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

PHARMACEUTICALS

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

SUPPORT SERVICES

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

PRINTING & PAPER

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

PROPERTY

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

TRANSPORT

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

WATER

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

HEALTHCARE

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

ENGINEERING

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

CONSTRUCTION

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

INSURANCE

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

DISTRIBUTORS

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

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LEISURE & HOTELS

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

OIL & GAS

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

SHORTS (under 5 years)

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

LONGS (over 15 years)

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation of)

| MC No | Company | Price | 1W % | 1M % | Yield % | PE |
|-------|---------|-------|------|------|---------|----|
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |
| 126 | Beck's | 126 | 0 | 4.0 | 11.0 | |

Bid to take

LISTING

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

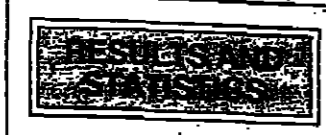
TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL



COMPANIES MICHAEL CLARK

Bid rumoured as Rank prepares to take holiday from its lean years



Andrew Teare, head of Rank, the group owning Butlin's, will face questions tomorrow

TODAY
Interims: Anglo & Overseas Trust, HSBC Holdings, Mid Wynd International Investment Trust, Pearson. Finals: Filtronic, Spring Group, Ultra Electronics. Economic statistics: Confederation of British Industry small and medium enterprise trends survey, UK July provisional M0, UK Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply July manufacturing sector survey.

TOMORROW
Interims: NatWest Bank, BP (2), Croda International, General Accident, Linden, Mayflower Corp, Rank Group, Finales: AIM Group, Northern Recruitment Group, Pifco Holdings. Economic statistics: Japan May household spending, UK Halifax July house price survey, UK and July official reserves.

WEDNESDAY
Interims: Woolwich, Cadbury Schweppes, GKN, Inspec Group, London & St Lawrence Investment Corp, Skandia Insurance, Transport Development Group. Finals: Stewart & Wight. Economic statistics: Italy July CPI, UK June industrial and manufacturing output, UK Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply July service sector survey, Bank of England MPC two-day meeting begins.

THURSDAY
Interims: Royal & Sun Alliance, Barclays, Elements, KBC Advanced Technologies, Reed Elsevier, Royal Dutch-Shell, Telewest Communications, Wyevale Garden Centres, Zaneca. Finals: Tetra. Economic statistics: UK second-quarter housing starts, UK second-quarter new construction orders, UK CBI July electricity trade survey, UK SMMT July new car registrations, Bank of England announces interest rate decision.

FRIDAY
Interims: Standard Chartered, Alliance & Leicester, Infobank International Holdings, Johnson Service Group, Rank Group, Unilever. Finals: none scheduled. Economic statistics: none UK data scheduled for release.

RANK GROUP: The shares were chased sharply higher on Friday, in response to claims that several US capital venture funds were poised to bid for the leisure group. No doubt questions will be addressed to Andrew Teare, chief executive, when the group unveils interim results tomorrow. Brokers forecast a modest improvement in pre-tax profits to £90 million, up from £87 million last time. Earnings per share should be up from 5.2p to 5.5p and there is a feeling in the City that these figures will mark a turning point for the group after a sharp decline in its fortunes in recent years.

The Deluxe cinema chain should show a reasonable recovery after last year's dismal performance, and benefits of the opening programme should become evident at Hard Rock Cafe.

HSBC HOLDINGS: Dogged by Far East events in recent months, HSBC, owner of Midland Bank, is first up to the plate this week when it reports today, in what has so far been an eventful reporting season for banks.

Although the stock has fallen sharply since autumn, when the turmoil in South-East Asia erupted, brokers believe that the region's economic troubles will deepen, further harming earnings of the world's biggest bank.

BT Alex Brown forecasts a 6 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £2.45 billion, while Dresdner Kleinwort Benson is even more bearish, suggesting an 11 per cent fall in first-half profits.

This will be the first time that HSBC reports in US dollars, rather than sterling.

NATWEST BANK: The group has much to prove after last year's terrible performance. Although analysts are not convinced that the bank will hit its year-end target of a 17.5 per cent return on equity, they forecast a rise of between 17 per cent and nearly 30 per cent in interim profits to, at most, £865 million.

After last year's disposal of the equities business, the spotlight will be on the remaining investment and wholesale banking division when the group reports tomorrow. Further trading losses are forecast, although much less than the £340 million in 1997. NatWest is expected to reiterate its commitment to a share buyback programme.

STANDARD CHARTERED: The bank, reporting on Friday, is likely to unveil a decline in profits, reflecting depressed trading conditions in Asia. Forecasts of the fall range from 3 per cent to 10 per cent. Bad debts are also forecast to rise. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson says that the shares have no value over £5. They closed on Friday at 678p.

WOOLWICH: Mortgage lenders' core business has come

under great pressure from mutual competitors, so the owners do not look good. BT Alex Brown predicts a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £239 million, when Woolwich reports on Wednesday, but it emphasises that these figures are flattered by last year's conversion costs. Woolwich's share of net new lending will be just 2 per cent, against a natural share of more than 5 per cent.

BARCLAYS: The last of the big four clearers to report will do so on Thursday. Forecasts are modest, putting the rise in first-half pre-tax profits at between 1 per cent and 4 per cent, equivalent to £1.32 billion at the top end. Earnings are expected to have been enhanced by the disposal of BZW, the loss-making equities and advisory business. In April Barclays restructured itself into four divisions. This is expected to show clearly in the results.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER: A&L rounds off the bank reporting week, with pre-tax profits forecast to rise by 25 per cent to £22 million. Unlike its peers, A&L has indicated that it has held on to its 4 per cent share of the mortgage market, albeit at the expense of margins. The new bank

may also say on Friday what it intends to do with its surplus capital, estimated at £780 million.

BRITISH PETROLEUM: BP's second-quarter net profits, due out tomorrow, are likely to fall short of the £582 million of the first quarter and a long way shy of the £738 million in the corresponding period last year. This is almost entirely because of the drop in the oil price from \$18.75 a barrel in last year's second quarter to a \$13.74 average this time round. Earnings per share will drop 27 per cent to 9.5p. Upstream activities will see realised prices down by \$1.50, but this will be offset to some extent by higher production. Downstream activities will feature a stronger performance from US refining. The Asian crisis will affect chemicals. The payout should rise from 5.5p to 6p.

SHELL TRANSPORT & TRADING: The oil price is expected to undermine second-quarter results due on Thursday, but the market will be looking for signs of underlying improvement in group performance. Net income is expected to drop from \$1.94 billion in the first quarter to \$1.58 billion, against \$1.93 billion

in last year's second quarter. Upstream will suffer from lower prices and the seasonal downturn in gas sales compared with the first quarter. Downstream will benefit from better refining margins, but there is a question mark over marketing margins.

UNILEVER: The strong pound and the woes of South-East Asia will play a big part in second-quarter numbers due on Friday. Pre-tax profits should come in at about £700 million, against £746 million for the corresponding period. However, the impact of currency and Asia will cut earnings per share from 6.3p to 6p.

Revenue growth is likely to be about 2.5 per cent, fuelled by disposals. Volume growth in North America is expected to be strong, helped by recovery at Lipton. European growth should be respectable, with the launch of laundry tablets. Operating margins will have declined after heavy marketing expenditure on successful product launches.

ZENECA: Most brokers expect a fall, if unexciting, performance from the pharmaceutical group when it produces half-year results on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are tipped to be £700 million

against £669 million last time. Earnings per share are likely to be up from 47.4p to 50.1p.

Pharmaceutical sales will have enjoyed growth of about 13 per cent, or 20 per cent at constant currency rates, to £1.38 billion, with a big boost possible from high-margin Zestril and Nolvadex. Sales of the new drugs Casodex, Arimidex, Acolate, Serquel and Zomig should grow from £97 million last year to £240 million this time. However, launch costs for the new drugs are likely to lead to a one-point drop in operating margins.

The payout should grow from 13.5p to 14.3p.

GKN: Britain's biggest engineer is expected to report pre-tax profits of £230 million to £230 million in interim figures for the six months to June, due on Wednesday. This compares with £203 million for the period last year. Analysts expect a rise in the interim dividend to about 5.4p, against an adjusted 5.3p, which takes into account the recent two-for-one share split. Brokers will look for the group to back up comments last week by its rivals TI and Siebe about the outlook for the engineering sector, which has been clouded by the strong pound and the Asian crisis.

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE: Analysts will be looking carefully at interim results on Thursday that cover the first six months of Bob Mendelsohn's stewardship. BT Alex Brown, the broker, expects bad weather in the UK, the US and Canada to have hit profits. Underlying operating profits are likely to fall 40 per cent to £300 million. A 9 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 7.8p is expected.

PEARSON: The media group's first-half numbers, due today, are expected to deliver pre-tax profits between £72 million and £77 million, up from £49.4 million, with a dividend of 8.2p (7.4p).

The results will be dominated by questions of strategy after Pearson's recent \$3.6 billion acquisition of Simon & Schuster's educational publishing operations. Analysts say that the deal has added credence to the pledge by Marjorie Scardino, who took over as chief executive 18 months ago, to double the group's value over five years.

CADBURY SCHWEPPE: A solid performance is expected in the confectionary and soft drinks group's first-half results on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits are expected to be between £250 million and £260 million, up from £236 million. Earnings per share are set to rise from 14.9p to 15.8p. These figures are struck after stripping out the exceptional gain on the sale of CCSB to Coca-Cola Enterprises. The payout should rise from 5.5p to 5.8p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Hopes high for break from rise in base rate

The Monetary Policy Committee meeting, which takes place on Wednesday and Thursday, looms large in a week that otherwise marks the start of the August summer holiday period. The City consensus is that the MPC will not raise rates, although even the most dovish of the economists believe that it will be a close-run thing.

The UK economic data to be published this week is not expected to contribute much new thinking to the Bank of England's debates. After last week's dismal CBI industrial trends survey, today's purchasing managers' survey for July and the June industrial production data to be released on Wednesday will only surprise if they prove considerably stronger than expected. MMS International, the economic forecasting group, expects manufacturing output to contract by 0.5 per cent in the month, leaving the annual rate of growth a percentage point lower than a year ago.

Of more interest will be the July purchasing managers' services survey, also published on Wednesday, which should see a further easing in the growth rate, suggesting that the annual rise in services output now stands at a more sustainable 2.5 per cent. The CBI distributive trades survey on Thursday will give the first taste of retailers' performance in July. Most economists expect some improvement from a weak June because of heavy discounting in the summer sales.

Markets will also be keeping an eye on a string of data from the US after last week's surprisingly strong GDP figures. The National Association of Purchasing Manufacturers index, to be released today, is expected to remain below 50, indicating that US manufacturers are also seeing a fall in output. However, personal income growth is expected to remain buoyant, suggesting that overall domestic demand is still robust.

The *Beige Book*, which will be published on Wednesday, will be closely analysed for evidence of labour market pressures ahead of the next Fed meeting on August 18. The highlight of the week, however, will be the employment statistics that are due to be released on Friday. MMS predicts that July non-farm payrolls will rise by 100,000, compared with 205,000 in June, although this figure has been distorted by the General Motors strike. Hourly earnings are expected to tick up by 0.3 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Meyer, FI Group, Granichner, I Gardner.
The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Lasmo, Lambert & Horwath, Cresham Computing, Hanover International, Finelst, Sell Robert Walters, Harvey Nichols.
The Mail on Sunday: Buy Glaxo Wellcome, Whitbread, Sell McCarthy & Stone, Countryside Properties, Wilson Connolly.
The Observer: Buy WPP, Brent International, Hold Gallaher, Avoid Great Universal Stores, House of Fraser.
The Express on Sunday: Buy Provident Financial, Copyright Promotions, Birky.

Table with columns for Country, Exchange Rate, and other financial data.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET table with multiple columns for stock prices, dividends, and other metrics.

Japan paints a stark contrast on spending

It is that time of the month again. So I have been looking at the minutes of the June meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee. The voting concerned various ways of reducing market interest rates. Does that give the game away? These minutes come from Japan. You could not imagine a greater contrast with our own MPC, nor gain a better perspective on the dangers facing the world economy.

Like ours, Japan's MPC has to try to weave a monetary thread into the fiscal fabric given by the politicians. In Britain, the recently announced public spending plans are a possible source of anxiety. In Japan, their MPC hopes that the politicians have given the economy such a powerful stimulus that they are not obliged to consider drastic monetary actions. Still, the minutes show that Committee members are worried. They reiterate: "In view of recent price declines and the recent rapid deceleration in the growth of

regular wages, which had fallen close to zero, it could not be ruled out that the economy was already in a deflationary spiral."

When it comes to the question of what should be done, the minutes are startling. One member said that "although pre-emptive monetary easing would have been consistent with the apparent downside risks to the economy, it was more important to keep in reserve policy measures that could be implemented in case the downside risks materialised". In other words, grim though the current situation is, given that the scope for action is limited, they should save up the last few shots in the locker until things become really desperate.

Is a weak yen part of the problem or the solution? Again the minutes tell a fascinating story — and give a clear warning to the

rest of the world. Some members argue that Japan must beware a weaker yen because of the pressure it would put upon other Asian currencies. But another view was that one of the lessons of the "bubble" period (Japan's super-charged version of the Lawson boom) was that "monetary policy should not place too much emphasis on the exchange rate". In other words, leave it to the markets. Ominously, according to the minutes, "many members supported this argument".

This would be in clear conflict with American objectives. The last thing the US wants is another round of currency depreciations and further financial crises in Asia. That is why it is so keen to press the fiscal option for stimulating the Japanese economy, and to suppress the monetary option. What it wants is tax cuts. No



matter that these do not appear to have worked in the past. Make them bigger. And make them permanent!

This idea of permanent tax cuts is interesting. The Japanese public finances are in an appalling state, while the prospective ageing of the population will bring huge fiscal pressures. Moreover, recognising

this, the Japanese people know that over the medium term taxes must rise substantially. So if the Government reduces taxes now and tells people that the reductions are "permanent" it doesn't cut much ice.

Accordingly, some advice from unofficial American sources is of a very different kind, namely the suggestion that Japanese monetary policy should be openly targeted to achieve a specific inflation rate. The idea is that with interest rates close to zero and banks and individuals flush with cash, once people believe that prices are set to rise, then they will spend more money and this will lift the economy from recession.

Yet how do you make people believe that prices in the shops will rise, and go on rising when they are currently falling — especially given the history of govern-

ment failure and policy reversal? The answer must be for the Bank of Japan to announce that it will go on pumping in cash without limit until the requisite inflation is created.

There are those who say that this treatment may lead to a result worse than the original disease, namely an uncontrollable inflation. But in my view, in the current predicament, that is the least of Japan's worries.

Rather, the problem lies in getting the policy to work. Even though the banks are already flush with cash, they are unwilling to lend. They would prefer to buy government paper or leave the money on deposit at the Bank of Japan. So the policy would have to be pushed so far that the surplus cash might be sold on the exchanges, thereby weakening the yen. This is the real rub. At the

very least, in order to have the desired effect of boosting confidence and spending in the domestic economy, it would have to be widely understood that the policy would not be abandoned if it led to a weaker yen. That is clearly in the thoughts of Japan's Monetary Policy Committee. And it figures large in the nightmares of officials at the US Treasury. But what if the acceptance of a much weaker yen is the only way out?

It doesn't sound too good for the world economy, does it? Still, I suppose that outside Asia the news is not all bad. Last week, for instance, French unemployment fell again — to "only" 11.8 per cent. This week, our own MPC will inspect the monetary controls for signs of accelerating inflation here. And whatever it decides, the markets on both sides of the Atlantic will presumably continue to derive comfort from the Goldilocks story.

I must be missing something. Several million lemmings cannot all be wrong, can they?

Economic slowdown puts BA's profits under threat

By Jon Ashworth

BRITISH AIRWAYS has given warning that the slowdown in the UK economy is having an impact on business and leisure travel, putting profits under pressure.

Andrew Sentance, the BA chief economist, said the strong pound, rising interest rates and trouble in Asia were taking their toll. Writing in the BA staff newspaper, Dr Sentance said: "With nearly half our sales in the UK, British Airways is clearly affected by this slowdown."

"Business travel budgets are already under pressure, leading to sluggish growth of premium traffic. In more difficult economic conditions, consumers are also more likely to rein back their spending on travel overseas."

His comments may be interpreted as a profits warning by BA, which next week publishes first-quarter results for 1998. Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, the BA chairman, flagged such concerns at the recent annual meeting, when he told shareholders: "We do have concerns over the effect of the strength of sterling and the Asian economic situation on demand for intercontinental business travel."

Against this, performance

in June (in terms of revenue passenger kilometres) improved by almost 10 per cent — the strongest growth of any month since December 1996. However, this includes contributions from BA franchisees.

The slowdown comes at a difficult time for Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, who is spearheading a series of unpopular reforms at BA. His confrontational approach triggered last summer's showdown with cabin crew unions, which cost BA £25 million in lost revenues. BA's profits slid to £580 million (£640 million) in the year to March 31, costing Mr Ayling his £100,000 annual bonus. Mr Ayling is seeking £1 billion in annual cost savings by the 2000-01, and any further squeeze on profits will threaten his projections.

BA is increasing capacity on routes between the UK and Australia, although this is aimed more at filling aircraft than at attracting premium business. Most of BA's premium traffic falls on the transatlantic routes.

Dr Sentance said it would be "very worrying" if the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee voted in favour of further interest rate rises this week.



Lord Marshall expressed his concerns to shareholders

Pensioners resume fight to win back £1bn surplus

By Gavin Lumsden

TWO pensioners will today resume a legal battle aimed at forcing electricity companies to return more than £1 billion of surpluses taken from their pension funds.

Dave Laws and Reg Mayes, former employees of National Grid, are seeking funds to appeal against a High Court decision which overturned a landmark ruling in their favour by Julian Farrand, the Pensions Ombudsman, last year.

Dr Farrand upheld their complaint that National Grid had misused £46 million of pension surpluses by spending it on redundancies.

His decision meant National Grid and 15 other privatised electricity companies would have had to refund up to £1.5 billion of surpluses back to the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme (ESPS) which has 200,000 members.

Mr Laws and Mr Mayes want the High Court to order National Grid's pension fund to pay the legal costs of their counter appeal. National Grid has paid £750,000 in total legal costs but has refused to fund further. Their QC, Nigel Inglis-Jones, and solicitors, Stephens Innocent, have since been working on a pro bono basis.

Peter Woods, of Stephens Innocent, said: "So far it's one-all between us and National Grid. We need a higher authority to look at the case. If tomorrow's application fails the men will be representing themselves in the Court of Appeal against an army of QCs. Hardly a level playing field."

However, both men have been encouraged by the Pensions Ombudsman who last week attacked the appeal decision against him in his annual report. Mr Laws said: "The whole issue of who owns the surpluses has not been settled by any means. In our view pensions are deferred pay and the surpluses should only be applied to the beneficiaries."

Meanwhile, this week, National Power will seek the court's approval to stop funding one of its own pensioners who is challenging its use of nearly £400 million of pension surpluses in light of the ruling by the Pensions Ombudsman.

Pressure grows on RSA to make an acquisition

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance Correspondent

BOB MENDELSON, the new chief executive of Royal & Sun Alliance, is coming under increasing pressure from institutional investors to make use of the composite insurer's estimated £2.6 billion of excess capital.

When Mr Mendelson, 52, joined RSA in December last year he pledged to expand the company internationally and place more emphasis on selling life and pensions products.

The composite unveils its results for the first six months of his stewardship on Thursday when underwriting losses and a drop in investment income are expected to reduce operating profits by about 40 per cent.

Analysts are predicting a range of operating profit of

between £299 million and £310 million, compared with the same six-month period in 1997 when operating profit was £501 million.

The shares hit a high of more than 800p in March and April but have fallen recently, closing at 666p on Friday. Mr Mendelson is believed to be examining ways to use excess capital to make an acquisition in the life and pensions market, especially in the US.

The City, however, is keener for him to unveil a big merger with another financial services company that would create growth in the sectors in which RSA is underweight — in particular, the life and savings market.

Week Ahead, page 39

Tax bills go to penalties as thousands miss date

Thousands are facing self-assessment penalties after their failure to pay tax bills by last Friday. The Inland Revenue was awaiting some £4.3 billion but had received just less than 40 per cent of that by last week.

Interest at a rate of 9.5 per cent will be charged on the unpaid tax, second payments on account for 1997-98. If they do not clear their debts in full by January 31 next year then fines will also be levied.

The ITC of the Inland Revenue also awaits another group of tardy taxpayers, the 400,000 individuals who did not submit their tax returns by January 31 and had still not done so a fortnight ago. If they do not manage to return their forms also by last Friday's deadline, they can look forward to second £100 fine.

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Answers from page 33

ZYTHUM
(a) A kind of beer made by ancient Egyptians. It was highly commended by Diodorus. The Romans preferred wine, leaving beer to the Teutons, the British and other barbarians. Zythum is the last word in the Oxford Latin Dictionary, but it fails to make it into the OED. "Forget about the dry sherry, Headmistress. I have always been a zythum girl myself."

SNAFU
(b) slang expression meaning either confusion or chaos. A forces acronymy from: "Situation Normal. All something beginning with Fed Up." "My arrangements seemed snafued. I guess the lines got crossed." First used by the US military in the last war.

ALLIGATOR
(c) A person who is a fan of jazz or swing music but does not play it. The origin is unknown. First used in 1936. "He's just an alligator. He can't play, like us."

JABORANDI
(d) A Brazilian drug with stimulating flow of saliva and diaphoretic (makes you sweat) properties, obtained from the leaves of ruscaceous shrubs (Placostemum) and other sources. "Let me offer you a cup of my Jaborandi tea. Bishop. You will find that it does wonders to the power of your sermons."

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CORPORATE PROFILE: Thames Water

Thames Water is the largest water and sewerage services group in the UK by customer base, serving 11.9 million domestic and commercial customers in London and the Thames Valley. It also has interests in international contracting, water products and services, property and insurance.

The company was privatised in December 1989 at a price of 240p per share. As the market closed on Friday the share price was £1.25, giving the company a market capitalisation of £4.3 billion.

Heading a slim board is Sir Robert Clarke, chairman, who was appointed a director in 1988, before privatisation, but only took up his present post in 1994, making it a full-time job two years later.

Bill Alexander, chief executive since October last year, joined the board in 1994. He was appointed managing director of the core utility business in February 1992 and among his responsibilities was the construction of the Thames Water Ring Main, which distributes water in huge quantities around London.

David Luffman, finance and planning director since 1987, joined the old Thames Water Authority in 1974.

The group has four non-executives. Sir Christopher Leaver, vice-chairman, was chairman from May 1993 to March 1994. He is also a director of Paddyfield Properties and Prayhawk.

Roger Carr is the chief executive of Williams. He is also a director of Bass, Newmond and Landau Forte College and is a member of the CBI Economic Affairs Committee.

Tony Hobson is group director (finance) of Legat & General. He is the chairman of Thames Water's audit committee.

Lesley Knox is deputy chairman of British Linen Bank. She is also a non-executive at Bank of Scotland, Scottish Provident and Dawson International.

THE lot of a monopoly supplier should be an easy one, especially if your stock in trade droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven. For this reason, to prevent them from using their monopoly position to exploit the customers, suppliers such as Thames Water are governed by a strict system of price regulation that tells them how much they can charge.

The ten water and sewerage companies in England and Wales were privatised in 1989, allowing the first five-year pricing regime to be imposed. The third will therefore have to be in place by April 2000, and the Office of Water Regulation, or Ofwat, is due to publish its preliminary suggestions in October on what formula should be imposed until 2005.

The last two regimes may have been tight, the current one allowing price rises of 1.5 per cent plus the ongoing rate of inflation to fund needed investment, but they have not prevented Thames's share price, in line with other water companies, from more than quadrupling since privatisation. In addition the company has handed back £550 million to shareholders, paid half of a £231 million one-off windfall tax to the Government, and set a pace of dividend payment rises that has the market forecasting further growth of 12 per cent in real terms over the next few years.

But the indications are that this time around the regulator may go for a tighter regime. A paper from Pamure Gordon, for example, suggests a one-off price cut of perhaps 10 per cent on water tariffs in 2000, and there will certainly be a new formula that reverses the existing set-up by requiring Thames to pass on to consumers real tariff cuts. Thames is responding to this by increasing earnings from its non-core businesses, which are outside the authority of the regulator. These include international contracting, the export of the company's experience in water treatment. Thames is helping to build water supply systems in a range of cities worldwide.

The aim is to earn a substantial proportion of profits from this and other non-regulated sources. Thames has set a target of 10 per cent by the year 2000 and is already close to achieving this.

This is classic business textbook stuff, using earnings from the core business to fund diversification into other areas.



Sir Robert Clarke, left, is chairman of Thames Water, which is trying to cut leakage rates. Top centre, Bill Alexander, top right, is leading the group overseas again and joined John Prescott, bottom right, the Deputy Prime Minister, and representatives of the Shanghai Waterworks Company on a site visit

as. There is only one problem: Thames has tried this before, and the cost was £75 million, one chief executive and an unquantified amount of its reputation on the stock market.

In the years after privatisation Thames bought a collection of businesses outside its core utility business largely focused on international contracting. The two main ones were Portals Water Treatment and Utag, a German contractor. Both companies turned out to have entered into several disastrous contracts.

In March 1996 the company had to admit its mistake. Mike Hoffman, the chief executive and seen as the architect of this expansion who sadly died earlier this year, left with a £500,000 payoff. The offending businesses were sold, and Thames took a £95 million write-off to cover costs, a figure that turned out to be overly pessimistic. Bill Alexander,

who was then running the core utility, stepped into Mr Hoffman's shoes. But the company is now engaged in eight separate contracts in places as far apart as Indonesia, Scotland and Turkey, providing and in due course operating new water supply systems.

This time, says Mr Alexander, it will be different. "We made some mistakes we aren't going to make again. We're limiting our investment and development so it is to be funded from our profits." This time the projects are being undertaken as part of a consortium.

Mr Alexander concedes that there are two constraints to further expansion: the need not to divert management time and effort from the looming Ofwat review, and the need to reassure the stock market that expansion is not too swift.

The Asian crisis, and the troubles in Indonesia, proved again that building water plants abroad is more risky than supplying consumers in London and the South East. The contract was abruptly cancelled, and two weeks later Thames was reinstated on the same terms.

In the past financial year the group reported a £481 million operating profit. Only £41 million came from non-regulated areas, half from property and insurance and the rest split between products, services and the international side.

Although the company has recently been linked with a local electricity distributor,

Southern Electricity, it has so far eschewed one other route for expansion by water companies, the purchase by or merger with a local power supplier.

Mergers between water companies are currently frowned upon by the regulator. But Mr Alexander is convinced this will change.

"I think the rules will change because, if the regulator wants cost efficiencies, that's the only way they will appear." Thames will go into negotiations with the regulator on the price review insisting that the company is different from its nine peers in England and Wales and has some claim to special treatment. This rests on its duty to serve the capital. The assets, the pipework and reservoirs, are in different states of repair. There are more connections per mile than any other water company.

least until recently, has wasted more of its water getting it to the customers than any of its peers.

"People recognise our assets are different," says Mr Alexander. "What we will do is get leakage down to the economic level."

But challenges to the core utility do not finish with the need to prevent wastage and wrest a reasonable deal out of the regulator. Thames is embarking on a rolling programme of fitting meters to homes, a move that could increase the cost of water to many customers.

There is also this summer's row over "fat cat" salaries and the threat by the Treasury somehow to link boardroom pay and water bills. "We're an unusual company," says Mr Alexander. "People need to trust the company that supplies them. We need to do everything possible to retain that trust. We have the ability to become public enemy number one quite quickly."

Crisp Consulting said that, by comparison with other FTSE 100 companies, Mr Alexander's pay package—a basic salary of £219,000 in 1997-98, with a bonus, share options and long-term incentives raising that to an estimated £500,000—was par for someone of his limited experience. The four non-executive directors are underpaid, said Crisp.

Integrity Works, the consultant, said: "The company has a well-developed statement of vision and values and is developing a set of business principles. Like other utilities with growing interests overseas, part of its challenge will be to ensure these principles are maintained in the face of conflicting standards prevalent in other parts of the world."

MARTIN WALLER

| OUR VERDICT | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Ethical expression! | 6/10 |
| Fat-cat quotient! | 9/10 |
| Financial record | 4/10 |
| Share performance | 7/10 |
| Attitude to staff | 3/10 |
| Strength of brand | 3/10 |
| Innovation | 6/10 |
| Annual report | 8/10 |
| City star rating | 8/10 |
| Future prospects | 5/10 |
| Total | 64/100 |

Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which the best boardroom pay packages scores highest, is provided by "Crisp Consulting."

Gloomy economic news brings consumer caution

TALK of collapsing sales on the high street is "unnecessarily alarmist", claims Verdict, the retail consultancy, although over the longer term shoppers are becoming increasingly choosy (Martin Waller writes).

"Shoppers are not slashing their spending as they did in the early 1990s," says Verdict in a report on retail demand published today. But consumers are reacting with caution to bad economic news. The

consultancy is forecasting real growth in consumer spending this year of just 2.2 per cent, after last year's leap of 5.2 per cent. "The doom and gloom that pervades the retail sector has more to do with excessive expectations and overoptimism," said Verdict.

A quarter of the UK's shopping transactions, worth £40 billion a year, will have migrated outside normal shopping hours by 2010, according to a survey sponsored by BT.

Delay leaves Pronto! in limbo

By JON ASHWORTH



Michael: controls needed.

BRITAIN'S first rapid-draw lottery company has seen its plans thrown into disarray after the Government moved to restrict gaming in pubs, but failed to say when the changes would apply.

Inter Lotto (UK), promoter of Pronto!, thinks that legislation aimed at restricting pub lotteries to one draw a day may not take effect until 2000, leaving it directionless. Alan Michael, the Home Office

Minister, said last week that controls would be imposed "but only when the legislative process allows". Inter Lotto says this is unfair on players and on UK charities, which gain 20p from every £1 ticket.

Mr Michael said: "For social policy reasons we consider there is a clear need for controls on the frequency of on-line lottery draws."

Inter Lotto says there is no evidence that rapid-draw lotteries

encourage hard gambling. Of 127 organisations to respond to government consultation, just 46 supported the legislation.

An appeal to the European Court is possible. Roy Fisher, managing director of Inter Lotto, said: "Two in three respondents were opposed to legislation." The Government has faced vocal lobbying from bookmakers, fruit machine vendors and Camelot, the National Lottery operator.

Emerging markets are losing their appeal

FUND managers are rapidly cooling on the emerging markets, and sentiment is weaker than at any time since the Asian crisis first emerged, according to a survey by Burson-Marsteller, the consultant (Martin Waller writes).

In all, 73 per cent of fund managers were negative about the emerging markets, while the rest were merely neutral. This result, covering the second quarter of this year, is in stark contrast to the survey's

findings the previous quarter, when 40 per cent were positive and only 35 per cent negative.

Fund managers now believe the situation for many emerging markets will deteriorate further before any improvement in the medium term.

However, some thought the present slump on emerging markets provided a number of buying opportunities. "Investors will come back to those markets underpinned by strong economies," said one manager.

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How to raise more questions than answers

Hypothetical questions popped up everywhere on television over the weekend. Some, such as "Would a British Foreign Secretary really block a lucrative arms deal to a repressive, but pro-Western regime?" or "Would a press photographer ask a Cabinet minister's permission before snapping him snogging his researcher?" hardly required answers.

Others were trickier: "Could we believe the claim of a woman who had shot her husband that he had subjected her to violent sexual abuse?" For instance, or more intriguingly: "Is it possible to make programmes based on hypothetical scenarios a bit livelier and more convincing?"

Verdict (TV, Friday) is Yorkshire Television's updating of the highly successful 1970s *Crown Court* series. An experienced and well-known cast including Sarah Lancashire (out of *Coronation*

Street), John Bower (lately in *Imogen's Face*) and John Woodvine (out of everything) performed an invented murder trial, before a jury of real members of the public who then reached a verdict, based on the dramatised evidence.

The series kicked off with a fairly lurid case. The wife of a failed and embittered crusty farmer has shot him dead with his own twelve-bore. She claims he has been repeatedly poking her with his dog's slip-lead and then sexually abusing her as she lies unconscious on the floor, that she grabbed the gun when he was about to do it again and it went off by accident (twice). The prosecution allege that it was premeditated murder, and the abuse claims are pure fabrication.

Courtroom dramas are ideally suited to the small screen since the tensions and complexities of the plot are carried through facial expressions, intonation, and tiny

gestures, all perfect for close-ups. The other indispensable generic convention is the passing of small, handwritten notes. These are meant to turn the course of the trial, but I expect actors use them in the same way schoolchildren do, and they contain vital new evidence such as "Don't look down, but your files are undone!"

The trouble is that fictional and real court cases are gripping for entirely different reasons. In *Perry Mason* and his million spin-offs have been exciting, it is because they turn the eternal struggle between good and evil into elaborate and intricately plotted chess games. Real trials, whether of O.J. Simpson, Woodward or minor Scottish traffic offenders, fascinate precisely because they provide raw insights into other people's lives, and because, like the juries, we crave the certainty of revealed truth.

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

This format falls between these stools. The attempt at realism undermines the drama, yet since we know that, however sensational, the events didn't really happen, well, frankly, my dear, do we give a damn? It wasn't the thought of the fluff, dull set, which looked like a studio even if it wasn't, and the half-realised slow pace. The scenario raised dozens of awkward questions which were bafflingly

left unaddressed by prosecution and defence: the whole scenario felt glib and unconvincing.

The one element that could and should be fascinating is to see how members of the public reach their verdicts. My own experience, and that of others I know who have done jury service, is that most jurors take their duties seriously, are anxious to reach a fair verdict and exhibit a great deal of shrewdness and common sense.

Yet this jury's deliberations were squashed into a few highly selective moments, and we got no real sense of how or why they reached their verdict of manslaughter, just a sense that they weren't taking it particularly seriously either.

This was all the more frustrating because the evidence suggested that the wife was abused, but that she had killed her husband deliberately. In this case it might have been a Clive Ponting-type decision to allow the jury's sense of natural

justice to override the law. It would have been interesting to know.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, *Hypotheticals* (BBC2) was a much weightier series of programmes in which distinguished panels of experts (including our own managing editor, George Brock) considered the moral issues thrown up in public life, by describing how they would act in a variety of invented scenarios. I caught the second and third, about press intrusion and the problems of dealing with unsavoury foreign regimes.

Apart from some whimsical made-up names (a philandering cabinet minister called Willy Blott and a Middle-Eastern state called Xanadu) the programmes were short on light relief, although I enjoyed Bruce Anderson's now obsolete crack about sending Peter Mandelson to

Xanadu to study the pleasure dome. Knotty issues arrived with such frequency that the moral tergiversations became extremely hard to follow or keep in focus. But then life is like that. As politicians invariably discover to their cost. It also made viewing hard work: I was glad to be watching on a preview tape, as I could rewind when my mind wandered.

The format meant that the politicians, judges, publicists, hacks and civil servants were at complete liberty to speak frankly about how they take decisions, and to their credit most of them did so. Peter McHugh of GMTV was particularly candid about the hypocrisy of tabloid television in handling sleazebags and *The Mirror's* Dawn Allford about getting them. The civil servants' ability completely to reframe their moral criteria to suit changing circumstances left me speechless with admiration.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am *Business Breakfast* (87067)
 - 7.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (7) (57241)
 - 9.00 *Kilroy* (7) (5297777)
 - 9.40 *What Now?* (7) (8334067)
 - 10.05 *Easy Money* New investment quiz hosted by Alan Borer, with co-hosts John Alcorn, Glenn Hyslop, Sharna Lowy and Ricky Tomlinson (1551715)
 - 10.30 *The Rankin Challenge* New series with chef Paul Rankin: a salsic-style wedding feast (76715)
 - 11.00 *News* (7) and weather (796574)
 - 11.05 *Great Railway Journeys* With Victoria Wood in northern England and Scotland (7) (8505828)
 - 11.55 *News* (7) and weather (2365338)
 - 12.00 *Every Second Counts* (7) (70707)
 - 12.30pm *A Word in Your Ear* (7) (86680)
 - 1.00 *News* (7) and weather (76728)
 - 1.30 *Regional News* (7) (4873357)
 - 1.40 *Neighbours* (7) (27183715)
 - 2.05 *Perry Mason: The Case of the Poisoned Pen* (7) (7) (8880154)
 - 3.35 *Maddy* (3924406) 3.45 *Popeye* (3882203) 4.10 *Casper* (5028932) 4.35 *50/50* (3520135) 5.00 *Newsround* (7) (2560661) 5.10 *The Biz* (7) (7493300)
 - 5.35 *Neighbours* (7) (7) (731096)
 - 6.00 *News* (7) and weather (70)
 - 6.30 *Regional News* (7) (70)
 - 7.00 *Television's Greatest Hits With Barbara Windsor, Bill Bailey on Dr Who and Frank Bruno's comic hero* (7) (2226)
 - 7.30 *Watchdog* Healthcare Medical matters (7) (54)
 - 8.00 *EastEnders* Walford's younger residents leave Albert Square for a break in Norfolk (7) (8154)
 - 8.30 *Lakelanders* Store detective Richard Milne sets a trap for a light-fingered staff member (7) (8561)
 - 9.00 *News* (7) and weather (5203)
 - 9.30 *Men Behaving Badly*: Watching TV Tony's incessant whinnies during an episode of *Star Trek* inspires a humiliating plot which ends up with him hiding out in a water tank (7) (73116)
 - 10.00 *Heartburn* Hotel: Frustration The boys plan a party, but none of them has any money and Debbie accidentally locks them out of the bar (7) (89796)
 - 10.30 *The Temptation Game* with Angela Deyton: A male model who claims he has slept with a male model; plus a group of Californians without inhibitors (7) (44116)
 - 11.00 *Not a Lot of People Know That*: Comedy game show (7) (7048)
 - 11.30 *Hotel*: An outbreak of poisoning threatens to bring health inspectors to the Adelphi (7) (7) (1854)
 - 12.00 *World Science* Lisa gives the power to manipulate time (865742)
 - 12.25pm *Paper Lion* (1968) with Alan Alda, Lauren Hutton, David Doyle and Alex Karras: A sports journalist decides to become a footballer. Directed by Alex March (138278)
 - 2.05 *Weather* (8734252)
 - 2.10 *BBC News 24*

- BBC2**
- 6.00am *Putting Training to Work* (3984116) 6.35 *Children, Science and Common Sense* (7) (2325203)
 - 7.00 *Open Air* (7) (207777) 7.05 *Teletubbies* (7) (8024116) 7.30 *Bonnie* (7) (2361425) 7.45 *Dink* (5418067) 8.10 *The Farm Game* (7) (2187593) 8.35 *Kel* (7) (9518116) 9.05 *Kenan and Kel* (7) (6791845) 9.35 *Smart* (7) (7) (3335796)
 - 10.00 *Tom and Jerry Kids* (1550086) 10.25 *Secret Life of Toys* (7) (8199048) 10.45 *Teletubbies* (7) (81135) *Coronas* (8738338) 11.50 *Supernan* (7) (7) (4767877) 12.25pm *The Flintstones* (7) (490116)
 - 1.00 *The Beechgrove Garden* (59070) 1.30 *People's Century: Nazism in the 1930s* (7) (1158338) 2.25 *Phil Silvers* (7) (33649048) 2.50 *News* (7)
 - 2.55 *Top Gear* *MotorSport: The World Rally Championship* (3545715) 3.25 *News* (7) (4805012) 3.30 *A Victorian Kitchen Garden* (7) (7) (48) 4.00 *Australian Odyssey* (7) (778152)
 - 4.25 *The Gift of Love* (1963) Emotional drama, with Andy Griffith. Directed by Paul Bogart (7) (542107)
 - 5.45 *Beautiful Things* (868067)
 - 6.00 *The Simpsons* (7) (7) (191845)
 - 6.20 *Space 1999* (7) (7) (70715)
 - 7.15 *Top Gear* *Take Two* Performance cars from Chrysler to Jaguars (7) (232080)
 - 7.30 *The Day That Changed My Life: From Warrior to Priest* How a freak gardening accident led a former soldier to become a Buddhist priest (7) (99)
 - 8.00 *Wildlife Success* The life of the French wild boar (7) (7795)
 - 8.30 *The Travel Show* Cruising around the Mediterranean; a tour of Belgium (7) (8203)
 - 9.00 *Have I Got Old News for You* (7) (3845)
 - 9.30 *The Aristocracy* (2/4) The scandals at Madresfield Court (7) (488815)
 - 10.20 *Still Here: The House of Usher* The ambitions of a young singer (488512)
 - 10.30 *Newsnight* (7) (247777)

- BBC3**
- 6.00am *GMTV* (4588870)
 - 9.25 *The Jerry Springer Show* (7) (3240999)
 - 10.30 *Murder By Book* (1987) Murder mystery with Robert Hays, Catherine Tate, Jay Stewart and Celeste Holm. Directed by Neil Dorman (39324116)
 - 12.30pm *Regional News* (461380)
 - 12.30 *News* (7) and weather (86048)
 - 1.00 *WALLS: Animal Country* (62796) 1.00 *WALLS: The Big Winner* (62796) 1.30 *Home and Away* (7) (87319) 2.00 *Lunch in the Sun* (813203) 2.45 *WALLS: Stepping the World*: Istanbul (80708) 2.45 *Stepping the World*: Gran Canaria (857086)
 - 3.15 *News* (7) (4888154)
 - 3.20 *Regional News* (7) (4885067)
 - 3.25 *Tots - TV* (7) (4878300) 3.35 *Caribou Kitchen* (529834) 3.45 *Smile's Bucket* (7) (302900) 4.00 *House of Toons* (803954) 4.00 *Finders Keepers* (7) (782154) 4.50 *Brilliant Creatures* (7) (5098574)
 - 5.10 *WALLS: House* (1075883)
 - 5.10 *Yan Can Cook* (1075883)
 - 5.40 *News* (7) and weather (860390)
 - 6.00 *Home and Away* (782947)
 - 6.25 *WALLS: Wales Tonight* (214951)
 - 6.25 *HTV Weather* (841425)
 - 6.30 *The West Tonight* (38)
 - 6.55 *HTV Crimeposters* (635785)
 - 7.00 *Wheel of Fortune* Gameshow hosted by John Leslie (7) (5574)
 - 7.30 *Coronation Street* Curly is surprised by the arrival of a letter (7) (22)
 - 8.00 *World in Action: Viagra*—The Hard Sell Could the wonder drug hailed as a cure for male impotence finally bankrupt the NHS? (7) (4222)
 - 8.30 *Animal Rescuers* The staff at Blackberry Farm treat a horse with a severe head wound (7) (3357)

- As HTV West except:**
- 10.25am *FILM: The Big Breakfast* (31062777)
 - 10.30 *FILM: Rich Men, Single Women* (31062777)
 - 12.15pm *Breakthroughs* (9480425)
 - 1.00 *A Country Practice* (52798)
 - 1.30 *Lunch in the Sun* (7820864)
 - 2.45-3.15 *High Road* (957086)
 - 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (1075883)
 - 6.25-7.00 *Channel News* (214951)
 - 11.10 *The Drew Carey Show* (716932)
 - 11.40 *Baywatch Nights* (294970)
 - 12.30am *Stand* (8124820)
 - 12.35 *Highlander* (4429507)
 - 1.35 *Real Stories of the Highway Patrol* (625320)
 - 1.55 *World Football* (9511487)
 - 2.25 *Club@vision* (2600742)
 - 4.10 *Central Jobfinder '98* (9682520)
 - 5.20 *Asian Eye* (1829742)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:**
- 10.30 *FILM: Desperate Rescue* (31062777)
 - 12.15pm-12.30 *Westcountry News* (8775932) 1.00 *High Road* (52798) 1.30 *Lunch in the Sun* (7820864) 2.45-3.15 *Highway Patrol: On the Road* (70361)
 - 5.00 *Birthdays Party* (5116244) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (1075883) 6.00-7.00 *Westcountry Live* (96067) 11.10 *The Drew Carey Show* (716932) 11.40 *Baywatch Nights* (363654)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:**
- 10.25am *Justice of the Land* (5334203) 11.25 *Blue Heelers* (8549512) 1.00pm-1.30 *Shortland Street* (52798) 2.45-3.15 *A Weekend's Work* (957086) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (1075883) 6.00 *Meridian Tonight* (58) 6.30-7.00 *Summer Getaways* (38) 10.40 *The Play* (230736) 11.05 *The Lineage* (270715) 11.10 *The Bottom Line* (716932) 11.40 *Meridian Masterclass* (154338) 12.10am *Crafts People* (9639617) 5.00 *FreeScreen* (59588)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except:**
- 10.25 *Justice of the Land* (5334203) 11.25 *Blue Heelers* (8549512) 1.00-1.30 *Dinosaurs* (52798) 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (1075883) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (214951) 11.10 *The Drew Carey Show* (716932) 11.40 *Swift Justice* (563654)
- SAC**
- Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (40951) 9.00 *The Bigger Breakfast* (948749) 9.05 *Johnny Bravo* (1367208) 9.30 *Saved by the Bell* (75574) 10.00 *Big Juice* (5275964) 10.30 *Sister Sister* (7) (1449572) 11.10 *Renford Rejects* (8724135) 11.45 *Madison* (7) (5281672) 12.30pm *Mission Impossible* (7) (5196798)**

- 6.00am Sesame Street (7) (70777)**
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast** (7) (40951)
- 9.00 The Bigger Breakfast** (7) (948749) 9.05 *Johnny Bravo* (1367208) 9.30 *Saved by the Bell* (7) (75574) 10.00 *Big Juice* (7) (5275964) 10.30 *Sister Sister* (7) (1449572) 11.10 *Renford Rejects* (8724135) 11.45 *Madison* (7) (5281672) 12.30pm *Mission Impossible* (7) (5196798)

1.35 Collectors' Lot (7) (46701390)

1.50 Penny Princess (1952) with Dirk Bogarde. A Central European country exists an English chess salesman to save the country from financial collapse. Directed by Val Guest (7) (65813067)

3.30 Watercolour Challenge (7) (16) 4.00 *Fifteen-to-One: The Big Winners* (7) (51) 4.30 *Countdown* (7) (2514574) 4.55 *Montel Williams: I Was Dumped Because I Was Too Good Looking* (7) (2076380)

5.30 Pet Rescuers The former model-turned-actress Celia Hammond on why animals are all she needs in her life (7) (15)

6.00 Roseanne (7) (28)

6.30 Hollyoaks (7) (80)

7.00 Channel 4 News (7) and weather (831425)

7.55 Lippop Tribute to performance poetry (7) (536488)

8.00 Tastes of Britain (5/8) Donnda Halper visits North London's Jewish community where she samples the sights and tastes of Jewish cuisine (2954)

8.30 Wild Relations: Partners in Pine Exploring the pine forests of Norway (7) (1959)

9.00 Secret History: The Battle for Goose Green British paratroopers under the command of Lt Col H. Jones, who lost his life at Goose Green, and Argentine soldiers talk candidly about the first land battle of the Falklands war (7) (4796)

10.00 NYPD Blue: Rememberance of Humps Pat Spowace comes to the aid of an old friend (7) (464845)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 83 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videopoint decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder N 83 are: picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am 5 News and Sport** (4321834)
- 7.00 WideWorld** (7) (7) (8426715) 7.30 *Milkshake!* (6794715) 7.35 *Dappledawn Farm* (7) (2129154)
- 8.00 HavaKavak** (6231135) 8.30 *Alan and the Chipmunks* (6230406) 9.00 *Starting from Scratch* (6254086)
- 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (7) (9733086); 10.20 *Sunset Beach* (7) (1066612) 11.10 *Loose* (6235135)
- 12.00 News** (7) and weather (8234222)
- 12.30pm Family Affairs** (7) (7) (3964406) 1.00 *The Bad and the Beautiful* (7) (8425089) 1.30 *Sons and Daughters* (683777)
- 2.00 Untamed Frontier** (1952) Joseph Cotton and Shelley Winters star in the western about a ranch owner who objects to the influx of settlers laming the land he always had to himself. Directed by Hugo Friedson (8886693)
- 3.20 Peckinpah** in (1963, TVM) with Richard Benjamin, Paula Prentiss, and Molly Ringwald. Comedy about a dysfunctional family who set off in search of a new life. Directed by Jay Taylor (8265048)
- 5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Millennium Time Capsule** (6171135)
- 6.00 100 Per Cent** (9534357)
- 6.30 Family Affairs** (7) (529749)
- 7.00 5 News** (7) (8383390)
- 7.30 Life at the Edge: Quetzal Cloud Forest** (7) (7) (3334113)
- 8.00 Animal House** Animal tales from around the world with Bill Oddie (7) (8383381)
- 8.30 Hot Property** Two friends on the look-out for a second home near the sea (7) (3839845)
- 9.00 The Fixer** (1997) with Jon Voight and Barbara Bakke. A crooked Chicago lawyer reassesses his life after a near-fatal accident. Directed by Charles Champlin (1286777)
- 11.00 Dr Fox's Chart Update** (4481883)

- VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes**
- The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ programmes. For more details call 020 750710. Each film costs £2.99 per viewer.
- VIDEO Plus+ 14** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 15** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 16** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 17** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 18** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 19** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 20** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 21** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 22** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 23** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 24** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 25** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 26** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 27** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
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- VIDEO Plus+ 47** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 48** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 49** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P
- VIDEO Plus+ 50** *Blackboard Jungle* (1955) 25P

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**
- SKY 1**
- 8.00am *Teletubbies* (7) (8024116)
 - 8.30 *Teletubbies* (7) (8024116)
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COMPANIES 39
Venture funds focus on Rank outlook

BUSINESS

PROFILE 41
How Thames hopes to keep cash flowing



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY AUGUST 3 1998

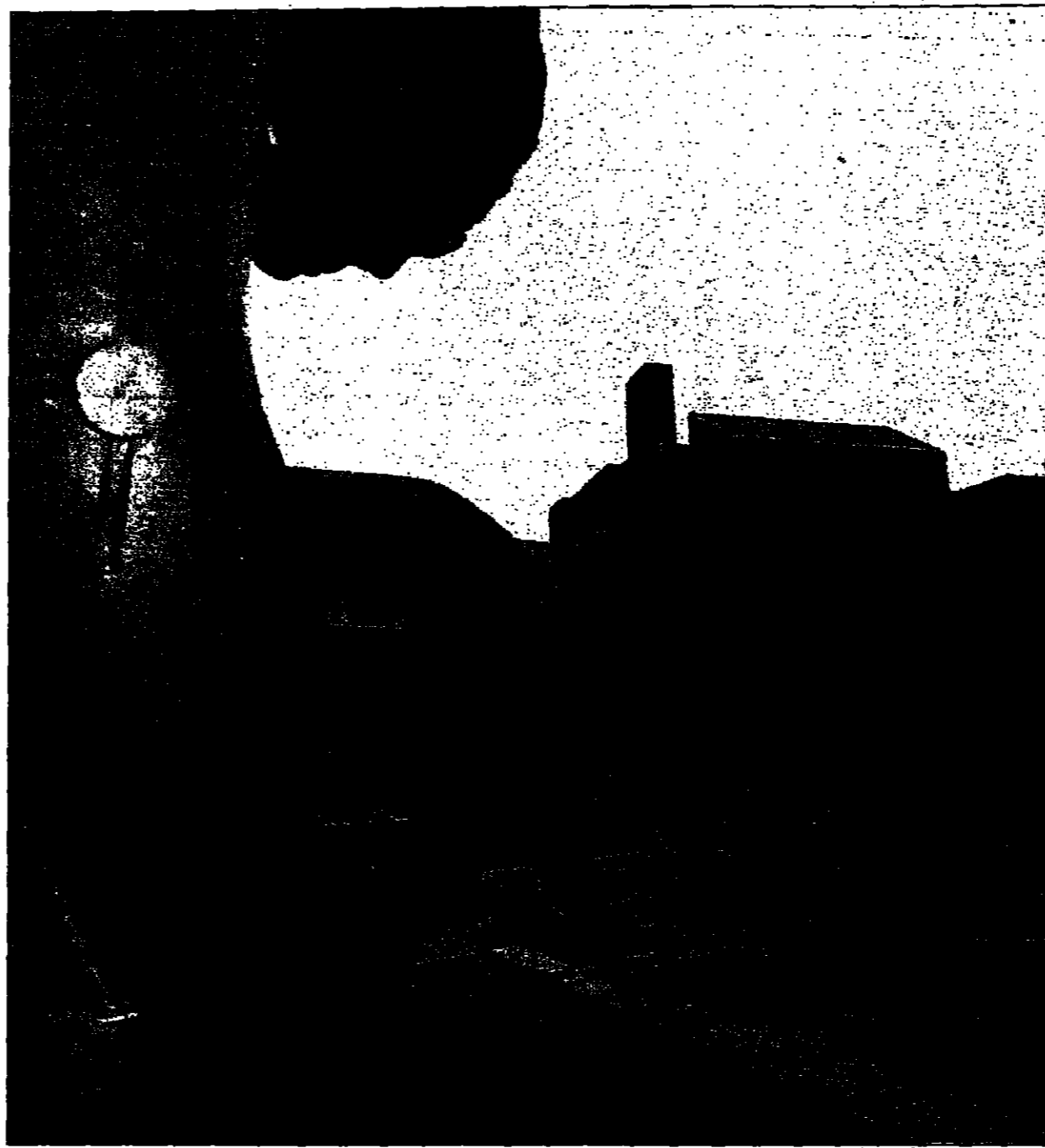
Millennium bug stirs City jitters

By TIMON DAY

A NUMBER of worried City institutions and fund managers have written to companies in which they have investments demanding that they spell out how much progress they have made towards tackling the "millennium bug". The City is growing increasingly concerned that many companies' computer systems will fail as the year 2000 begins, so endangering the value of those companies' shares. Institutional investors have been gradually waking up to this problem but most are now taking action, with the mighty Prudential taking the lead with a statement earlier this year saying it was contacting all its investments for reassurance. The Stock Exchange recently instructed companies to spell out in their annual reports what action they are taking on the millennium problem and the likely cost. In the US the financial authorities gave business the same order four years ago. Foreign & Colonial, the biggest investment trust manager, says it is happy to wait for companies to comply with Stock Exchange regulations

and will judge their progress on that basis. "We can't do anything else as otherwise it would be insider information," said an F&C spokesperson. Rivals have taken a less passive approach, however. Mercury Asset Management, one of the biggest managers, said: "We are clearly concerned that British business should be Year 2000 compliant. Part of our on-going research into over 5,000 companies seeks to ensure that our investments will be compliant before the millennium." Phillips & Drew has written to the UK's top 350 companies over the past couple of months but has received responses from only about half of them. P&D claims its two-page questionnaire is better than most, starting with basic questions such as "Have you initiated a Year 2000 project?" and following these up with a further 25 questions aimed at discovering the size of the problem and how it is being tackled. Another fund manager, M&G, is asking its 3,000 investments to complete two-page questionnaires when they are assessed at private meetings during the year. "We

need to find out the scale of the problem, the amount of resources the company is devoting to solving it and the rate of progress," said M&G. Schroders Asset Management is asking its investments what they are doing but refuses to say anything until an autumn statement on the subject. Others, such as Hermes, the old Post Office pension fund manager, are refusing to comment on what action they are taking. One analyst said the biggest problem was inaction, because this could lead to investors selling their shares because they are unable to assess the profit impact. The majority of top companies are already engaged in de-bugging their systems. These range from BT spending £100 million to Colefax & Fowler, the wallpaper and design company, spending only £25,000 on new PCs and servers. The millennium bug is due to most computers' inability to tell the difference between the year 1900 and the year 2000. This basic mistake by manufacturers and software writers is calculated to have a global cost as high as £200 billion.



The British Library project's electric cabling problems resulted in Commercial Union paying out more than £8.4 million

Builder cited in British Library shambles

BY ADAM JONES
A COURT case arising from the shambolic British Library construction project at King's Cross in London has ended in embarrassment for the last Government and for Balfour Beatty, part of the BICC Group. Commercial Union, the insurers of the Department of National Heritage (DNH) — now renamed the Department of Culture, Media and Sport — sued SVM, a firm of design and maintenance consultants, to reclaim more than £8.4 million that it paid out after problems with electric cabling. SVM designed and supervised the cable work. The DNH claimed SVM was to blame for the damage and resultant delay. However, Judge Peter Bowsher, QC, ruled that it was mainly the fault of Balfour Beatty, which installed the cables. He also criticised the DNH for "indecision" and said that the DNH and Laing Management, another contractor, were partly responsible. Judge Bowsher said that Balfour was guilty of bad workmanship, adding: "A comparatively small number of men caused extensive damage." Commercial Union will now have to pay costs estimated at £2.5 million.

City hopeful of peg in interest rates

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT
THE City is hopeful that the Bank of England will leave rates on hold at its meeting this week, although memories of the unexpected rate rise in June have left the market distinctly nervous. A string of weak data, including a fall in the inflation rate and a dismal Confederation of British Industry manufacturing survey, have left a clear majority of City econo-

mists believing the Monetary Policy Committee will not raise rates above the existing level of 7.5 per cent. However, another increase in the average earnings figures, the slide in the value of the pound during the past month and Gordon Brown's plans to increase public spending, means there is still a large degree of uncertainty about whether rates have peaked. The Bank might take some comfort from two sets of data published today which sug-

gest that labour market pressures are easing. The CBI/Pannell Kerr Forster survey of small and medium-sized (SME) manufacturing companies shows employment levels falling for the first time in four years, with the number of job cuts expected to accelerate in the coming months. SMEs are feeling the pain of high interest rates and the strong pound, with companies suffering the largest fall in total orders since October 1991. The separate Industrial Re-

lations Service survey of wage deals in the three months to June showed earnings growth steady at 3.5 per cent. The IRS said that wage deals do not seem to have accelerated again despite the rise in inflation in April and May, which prompted worries that earnings would head higher. Richard Illey, UK economist at ABN-AMRO, accepted that the Bank's decision is on a "knife-edge". However, he added: "The growing evidence of the domestic slowdown

should be enough to ensure rates have peaked at 7.5 per cent." Mr Illey's view was backed by the Shadow Monetary Policy Committee, a group of leading independent economists who monitor the Bank's performance. They concluded that interest rates should remain unchanged. Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, predicted that the Bank will make another quarter-point rise.

Pace issues writ against Californian supplier

BY CHRIS AXLES
PACE Micro Technology, the maker of "set-top boxes" for digital television, has issued a writ against a Californian software house after it allegedly twice threatened to cut off Pace's supply of key components. The West Yorkshire company has already started delivering set-top boxes — the devices needed to receive digital broadcasts — to BSkyB, the satellite operator 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. Pace also

has a contract to supply set-top boxes to ONdigital, BSkyB's terrestrial competitor. The dispute concerns the way Pace uses microchips loaded with software produced by Macrovision of Sunnyvale, California. It is thought that Macrovision objects to its software being sold by Pace under the trademark of Gradiente, the name of one of Pace's European subcontractors. According to a writ issued

by Pace against Macrovision — a copy of which has been obtained by *The Times* — the Californian company has twice written to Pace, most recently on July 14, threatening to cut off the supply of microchips. Pace yesterday confirmed that it had taken legal action, and added: "Undertakings from Macrovision have been agreed between the parties ensuring that there will be no interruption to Pace's business."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD
No 1474
ACROSS
1 Wisdom (8)
5 Animal, its fur (4)
8 Path to take (5)
9 Sharp reply (7)
11 Piercing tool (5)
12 Cavalier opponent (9)
13 Lesbos poet (6)
15 Scheduled; healed over (6)
18 Binding up (wound) (9)
19 Enactment (3)
20 Passage (from book) (7)
21 In the midst of (5)
22 Tot (of whisky) (4)
23 Ancestor (8)
DOWN
1 Outdo (7)
2 Thin porridge (5)
3 Dispel bad feeling (5,3,3)
4 Part of trousers (4-2); arrive (4,2)
6 Formally look over (7)
7 Press, shape, with hands (5)
10 Where Great Fire of London started (7, 4)
14 Universal cure (7)
16 Titled widow (7)
17 French café (6)
18 Mixture (5)
19 Unconfined (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1473
ACROSS: 1 Years 7 Headway 8 Calorie 9 Frailty
11 Throat 13 Desultory 15 Quadruped 19 Daniel
21 Stripes 23 Popular 24 Freesia 25 Ranch
DOWN: 1 Yacht 2 Allure 3 Spread 4 Chef 5 Adrift
6 Battery 10 Roused 12 Tenure 14 Battery 16 Driver
17 Dapper 18 Violin 20 Lurch 22 Spar

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Charges loom over pensions

BY MARTIN WALLER
THE Fraud Squad has completed its year-long investigation into pensions mis-selling and is considering criminal charges against directors of three leading insurance companies deemed responsible for providing consumers with unsuitable pensions. The charges would be under the Financial Services Act, which covers the giving of misleading advice. Under the Act directors of insurance companies can be held responsible for the actions of the company's sales force and can be punished with fines or, in theory, imprisonment. The three companies may not be named for legal reasons, but they are well known for their involvement in the mis-selling scandal. The

Hoechst set to sell paint division

Hoechst, the German chemical and drugs group, is believed to be poised to sell its Herberts industrial paints division to Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR), the US buyout specialist, for over £1 billion. The deal, potentially one of the biggest buyouts this decade, will speed Hoechst's transformation from conglomerate to focused pharmaceuticals group. KKR recently bid for Willis Corroon, the insurance broker.

Bidder revealed

Sally O'Sullivan, a former editor-in-chief at IPC, was the mystery underbidder for IPC Magazines, which was bought for £860 million by a Civen-backed management buyout team this year. Ms O'Sullivan is launching her own magazine company, Cabal Communications. Youth appeal, page 42

UK managers flock to former communist bloc

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ADVICE given to the young and ambitious used to be "go west", but British professionals seem to have acquired a new motto of "look east" as they flock to the countries of the former communist bloc in a late 1990s reversal of the "brain drain". The number of young British managers snapping up jobs in the large cities of the region, such as Prague, Warsaw and Moscow, is rapidly rising as they take advantage of competitive salaries and the chance to jump several rungs up the career ladder. Dr Graham Hall, an expert on emerging economies at Manchester Business School, said: "We are undoubtedly witnessing a brain drain from

the West especially to countries that had a free-market tradition pre-communism and are now attractive places to live and bring up families." Salaries in these countries are matching and even exceeding those in the UK, while the cost of living remains lower. Wages for middle management jobs are rising at about 10 per cent a year in the former communist bloc, according to research by Antal International, an international recruitment consultancy. A finance manager for a multinational in Russia, for example, is able to earn about £60,000 a year, which combined with incentives rises to about £100,000. Tony Godwin, chief executive of Antal International, claims the migration does not compare with the "gin and tonic brigade" that headed to the Middle East in the 1970s and 1980s. East Europe provides a chance to fast-track into a more senior position.

Godwin: career opportunity

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